

The Oaks



Inside this issue:

Bucklebury Parish Council	
Planning	2
Bucklebury Cemetery	2
Emergency Plan	2
Commons Update	3
Carbins Wood path	3
Comm's/Signposting	3
Greening Launch Event	4
LEAF Funding	4
WB Councillors	4
Family	5
In the Area	8
Thatcham Film Club	8
Organisations	
Tuesday Ladies' Group	8
Macmillan C. S.	8
History Group	9
Walkers	10
Halls	10
Sports	12
Badminton	12
Tennis	12
Wolves FC	13
Country Life	13
Contributions	15
Parish Diary	16

Parish Council Chairman
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk
Helen Pratt

The Oaks Editorial Team
Editor: Wynne Frankum
Copy secretary: Lindy Clarke
Typography: Malcolm Storey
Proofing: Christine Ewing

Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

Looking back over 2011, in these rather gloomy times on the national and international scene, here in Bucklebury we have much to celebrate! The opening of the post office in the hall at All Saints' Church which was such a relief after the long queues at Thatcham post office, the Events Committee arranging the memorable celebration for the royal wedding, the official opening of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, another very successful Chapel Row Fair, a hot day on Oct 1st for the Victory Room Beer Fest which attracted record numbers of people, and a successfully completed Parish Plan Refresh which received high praise from WBC.

As I write, the Christmas season is particularly lively, with several new events starting with the magical first Christmas Tree Festival, where the decorated trees brought much admiration from visitors, carols in the barn at the Farm Park, with the Nicholls family and their choir, and *Lighting up Bucklebury*, the evening of the candlelit carol concert in St. Mary's church. A lot to be proud of, and the result of a lot of very hard work by many people across the parish. Added to all those events are all the other organisations in the parish which enrich our lives.

Looking forward, the Bucklebury Community Events Committee is already planning another big celebration for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On June 3rd, a *Big Lunch* will take place throughout the country and Rupert Hartley Russell has again most generously offered to let Bucklebury's be held at the Farm Park. Watch out for details.

The Pang Valley Volunteers have had large teams working on the hedges round the Hockett field. After three hard days work they are half way round and will complete the work in the New Year. If you walk round there, hopefully you will notice a big

improvement; long views to the south and west and oaks cleared of surrounding scrub so they can be seen in all their glory - and the smaller ones given room to grow strong! We are indebted to Frank Heywood and his dedicated team. The Pang Valley Volunteers will continue despite the demise of FWAG, which has gone into liquidation. BPC have agreed to committing funding from the precept and we wish the newly to be formed organisation well.

You will be pleased to hear that Helen Pratt, our parish clerk, has again managed to balance the budget, so the precept will not rise in 2012. We hope she won't be headhunted by Westminster or Brussels!

Bucklebury Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Wynne Frankum Chairman BPC

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Over 100 people gathered in, and close to the Cemetery Chapel on Monday evening for the annual *Carols by Candlelight*. It was a very festive occasion even if lacking the snow of the last two years. Nightlights twinkled in the chapel and on many of the trees in the Cemetery as the age old and more modern carols were sung. Thanks must go to Lindsey McNish for compering the evening, Iain Davies for playing the keyboard, Steve Beeson for the generator, lights and preparation of the mulled wine, all the ladies who made or helped serve the mulled wine and mince pies, Anne Hillerton and the girls from Woolhampton School who sang the first verse of *Silent Night* and helped in *Away in a Manger* and last but my no means least the soloists Evan Pocock, Dominic Powell and Theo Powell.

Parish Council Planning

A fair proportion of the Parish Council's time is still spent on dealing with planning applications. Once an application has been received from West Berks Council(WBC) it is allocated to 2 councillors who visit the site and the applicant. This is in order to get a fuller understanding of what is proposed, check the orange notice giving details of the application is prominently displayed and talk to the neighbours and others potentially affected. The councillors consider all they have seen and heard and make a recommendation to the next Planning Committee or full Parish Council Meeting. The applicant will have been told which of these it is to be so he or she can attend and speak if desired. After discussion the recommendation is either endorsed by the Council by a vote or if there are contentious issues or more information needed the full Council will ask for a further site visit before taking the application one more time. The Parish Council's decision, which is advisory to WBC, is either to support, object to or offer no objection to the application. A short written report goes forward to WBC giving the rationale for the decision with reference to the relevant Planning Policies, Guidance and Supplementary Planning Guidance(including the Parish Design Statement – Bucklebury Vision).

Barry Dickens Chair BPC Planning Committee

Parish Council Matters Arising

Bucklebury Cemetery



The butterfly survey was again carried out this summer. Of course, cemeteries are havens for wild life, and ours is no exception. Unfortunately there were no exciting butterflies this year and only three species with the gatekeeper being the most

numerous. So a disappointing year, but never mind, next year there might be some surprises.

The History Group have had a quiet year for recording the grave markers, due to other demands on their time, but hopefully 2012 will see them in their stride!

Carols by Candlelight took place on the Monday before Christmas again this year, with some new musicians taking part. I hear one family came from London! Our fame

spreads! We are, as usual indebted to the Beeson family for supplying mulled wine, lights, generators and equipment and to the mince pie makers! Helen Pratt again organised the music with her usual enthusiasm.

The current area in the "new" cemetery is now full, so 2012 will see the newest cleared part being used. Helen Pratt has been on a steep learning curve. Running a cemetery is governed by innumerable rules and regulations with which she has been getting to grips! If you have any enquiries about the cemetery, please contact her.

Wynne Frankum Chairman of the Burial Board, BPC

Parish Councillor – West Ward

A vacancy has arisen on Bucklebury Parish Council for the West Ward, which covers Upper Bucklebury, Hopgoods Green, The Slade and Westrop Green. If anyone is interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk (see back page for contact details) for more information.

Bucklebury's Emergency Plan

REQUESTS FOR HELP

All parishes have been asked to produce an emergency plan so that if (as in the case of the floods of 2007) there is a sudden problem, the parish will be better equipped to deal with it.

We have produced a first draft following a template provided by West Berkshire Council. One of the requirements is to assess what local skills and resources we have.

We would like to draw up a list of people in the parish who may be able to help in an emergency. The list will be updated annually. Please let Helen Pratt the Parish Clerk know if:

- You are a trained first aider (and would be willing to be contacted in an emergency)
- You are a GP or nurse and living in the parish (as above)
- You own and drive a 4x4 vehicle (as above)
- You own and drive a tractor (as above)
- You own a working chain saw (as above)

The Parish Council will also be contacting local organisations which could be helpful in identifying vulnerable people in the community who may need extra help in an emergency.

The plan will be discussed again at the March meeting of the Parish Council, so please let Helen have any names and contact details by then.

Lindy Clarke Parish Councillor

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 usage.

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 service and observe road and bylaws. Driving anywhere off-road is illegal and needs to be reported and ideally photos taken.

Please continue to help report incidents – email: stevebeeson@yahoo.co.uk, tel: 01635 862918. We need vehicle registration numbers and photos! Please report fly-tipping to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk – they normally collect within 48 hours.

There have been reports of “mud-plugging” 4x4's (churning up tracks) which have been reported to the Police and WBC – letters and warnings will be sent. We have also contacted the illegal camper who stays on the Common occasionally – whilst this might seem harmless enough there are no sanitary arrangements and it could encourage other transient travellers. Also, there is actually a byelaw against camping. The byelaws are on the BPC website and the information board at the crossroads (if it has not been vandalised again).

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.

As a keen cyclist around the Common can I please remind all cyclists and parents with children who cycle that it is a good idea to use lights at all times on your bikes. Could you please check you have at least a rear light – especially if your children are riding to/from the BMX track.

Steve Beeson BPC

stevebeeson@yahoo.co.uk

Path through Carbins Wood

As many of you are aware, the main permitted path from east to west through Carbins Wood has been closed to the public since 2008 when there was a change of ownership of the middle part of the wood. When it became obvious that negotiation with the new landlord was not going to achieve a continuation of the permitted path through the wood, the Parish Council applied in June 2008 to West Berkshire for a modification order of the existing definitive map and

statement of rights of way of the area. They requested a public byway through the wood from Hatch Lane in Chapel Row to where it meets up with public footpath 83/5, which runs from north to south.

As there was no sign that West Berkshire Council would be considering this case in the near future (they have a lengthy backlog of such cases) and as there was local concern about activities taking place in the wood, the Parish Council applied in 2011 to the Planning Inspectorate to have the case heard earlier.

In October 2011 the Planning Inspectorate decided there was a case for setting a date by which the application for the byway should be decided and formally ordered the local authority to determine the case by next April 2012.

The local authority already has copies of 35 user evidence forms, 2 petitions and other information, most of which were submitted in 2008. If anyone has any further evidence about the use of this path prior to 2008, they should contact Stuart Higgins in the Rights of Way department at West Berkshire Council. (shiggins@westberks.gov.uk)

Lindy Clarke Parish Councillor

Communications/signposting

PARISHIONERS EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

As *The Oaks* only comes out 3 times a year, the Parish Council felt there was a need for more immediate communications about the Parish, e.g. local weather warnings, neighbourhood watch matters, road closures. If you would like to sign up to this distribution list, please send your email address to Helen Pratt, the parish clerk at buckleburyparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

BUCKLEBURY BUSINESS LIST

If you run a business in Bucklebury, please let Peter Weedon, peterweedon@btinternet.com have your contact details, as he is compiling a list which will be published on the Parish website, with hard copies available if requested.

BUCKLEBURY CLUBS/ORGANISATIONS

The clerk holds a list of these, which are always included in the welcome pack for newcomers, and will be published on the Parish website. If you would like a copy or would like to be included on the list, please contact the parish clerk as above.

WELCOME PACK

If you are a newcomer to the Parish, and you have not yet received our welcome pack, please contact Helen, the Clerk, for a copy.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.buckleburyparish.org

Greening Bucklebury Launch Event

CONCERNED ABOUT RISING ENERGY BILLS?
WANT TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?
THEN GREENING BUCKLEBURY IS FOR YOU!



A big thank-you to everyone who came to the Public Meeting on 28th September and chose 8 energy saving challenges for our community to take up after the Launch Event.

The Launch Event will take place on Saturday 28th January in the Memorial Hall from 2.30pm to 5pm. Helped by our young people, there will be information

on ways of saving money by reducing your consumption of energy and resources.

Your household's challenge card will be delivered through your door within 2 weeks from the Launch. We are asking each household to complete at least five challenges and then display the card in a front window before 10th March. Volunteers will count the displayed cards between 10th and 25th March. Then we can work out by how much Bucklebury has reduced its CO₂ emissions and energy bills overall.

The Greening Campaign challenges us to take on small changes in our way of living which when added up across the parish will add up to a significant difference. If each household achieves just 5 out of the 8 challenges that household could save £90/year and reduce their CO₂ emissions by 650 kg/year.

Watch out for the card through your door, take up the challenges and display the card so we can see what savings we have made together.

If you or someone you know wants to be part of the Greening Bucklebury campaign please contact Peter Brook.

Peter Brook Acting Chair Greening Bucklebury

LEAF Funding

The government has just announced a £10 million funding pot called LEAF (Local Energy Assessment Fund). This funding is open to community groups and parish councils but needs to be spent by 31st March 2012. DECC describes the fund as being designed to help communities to accelerate their activity on energy and climate change. It can pay for:

- energy surveys of buildings
- energy saving demonstration projects (exemplar homes or community spaces)

- workshops to help local people take action to save energy
- reports on what more needs to be done in your area (in the way of energy efficiency)
- engagement events ahead of the above studies to generate interest

Where the above has already been done the funding may be able to facilitate:

- area-wide renewable energy studies (to see what would work)
- feasibility studies into specific renewable energy projects

The money is not available for installing technologies which would benefit from Feed in Tariffs or the Renewable Heat Incentive, but could be used for studies into whether those technologies would be suitable.

Please see the following link for further information.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn11_107/pn11_107.aspx

If your Parish is in a position to bid for this funding, National Energy Foundation (NEF) may be able to offer some professional support to help your bid succeed. If your outline proposal clearly has good potential, NEF could help you strengthen it. The cost of this professional support will then be built into your bid and paid for only in the event of your bid being successful. Outline proposals (one side of A4) should be sent to communities@nef.org.uk

Bucklebury Parish Plan – Refresh

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The aerial view of the *Tea in the Park* included in the summary document of the Parish Plan Refresh report and action plan was taken by Malcolm Beard www.highvizphotography.co.uk

Peter Brook Chair, Parish Plan Refresh Steering Group

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

We have previously reported that a huge amount of work has been going on for the last two years to update the Local Plan (now called the Local Development Framework or LDF) on which planning policies and therefore decisions on planning applications will be determined. I am pleased to say that we are hopefully at the final consultation stage before a Planning Inspector signs off what is proposed. Locally for the Parish very little should change as no large-scale developments are suggested in our area or elsewhere in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Much has been written about devolving planning powers to more local areas, for example Parish Councils, but the information we have as of now is that the District Council should still be where decisions will be made, based on the LDF and Planning Policies. It is worth noting that the status of the AONB has recently been enhanced to provide further protection against certain development.

It is still important for us to have a definite idea of the housing needs of the Parish and we do have specific policies to promote "affordable" housing so please find time to complete the Housing Needs Survey being distributed with this edition of The Oaks. Your views and knowledge are important to us so we can reflect the Parish's housing requirements in future planning policies.

Every year becomes more of a challenge when setting the Council budget against the background of the economic situation. We have made "efficiency" savings for the past few years but we are now reaching the stage of making some difficult choices. We are pleased to say that you should have no increase in Council Tax bills next May and we have protected front-line services especially those that could affect the vulnerable or elderly. We will continue our road improvement schemes (like the Forth Road Bridge I doubt we will ever complete these works but there have been many fewer potholes!) and will always ensure we have enough grit to cope with a severe winter which hopefully will be less harsh than last year. Some compromises have been made such as the alternate collection of the grey and green wheelie-bins, but we have introduced weekly collection of food waste to prevent problems with odours or vermin. The feedback we have had is mainly positive and most people have risen to the challenge of increasing recycling!

May we hope you had a peaceful Christmas and will enjoy a Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb

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).

The main switchboard for West Berks Council (WBC) is 01635 42400.

For Transport enquiries (e.g. bus routes or timetable) ring 01635 503248.

For non-emergency calls, the Police can be contacted on 0845 8505505.

Family

Bucklebury Toddler Group

During the winter term we have enjoyed lots of festive fun. We spent three weeks busily making snowflakes, Christmas trees, baubles, stars and bell decorations for the village Christmas tree festival. We immersed ourselves in glitter and all things sparkly. Our tree looked absolutely beautiful and we came second a great achievement! Thanks to everyone who voted for us, Katherine Moss for baking some beautiful salt dough decorative shapes and of course the children that worked so hard on them.

The mums enjoyed a lovely night out at the Cottage Inn pub and were the first of many to enjoy their delicious Christmas menu as well as one or two glasses of wine.

Santa visits Bucklebury Toddler group



Bucklebury Toddler Group Christmas tree

We finished the term with our annual Christmas party. Twenty three children enjoyed a magic show, making Christmas cards, party games, Christmas lunch and an all important visit from Santa who brought some lovely gifts for them all.

We are a small and friendly group of parents, grandparents and childminders who welcome all newcomers. 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

Cara Shearn

Bucklebury Pre-School

The winter term is always an incredibly busy one with the run up to Christmas. The children spent time everyday practicing their songs for their nativity. They did an amazing job performing on the stage to an audience of around seventy children from Woolhampton and Bucklebury schools and to another packed house of very proud mums, dads and grandparents. This never fails to be a truly magical show and a Christmas highlight for parents and children alike.

The children were also busy writing their Christmas lists and came up with a very diverse wish list ranging from yoyos to castle. The older children were then accompanied by the staff on a walk to the village post box to post their cards. All the children were also invited for a morning out visiting

Bucklebury school to watch their school play production. They enjoyed it a lot and behaved really well.

Christmas also provided a great opportunity to get the glitter out and get busy on the craft table. We made Christmas tree decorations and decorated glitter baubles to put on our Christmas tree for the village Christmas tree festival which looked beautiful. They also made a range of artwork for cards and presents which parents could order.

We finished the term with a Christmas party for all the children –magic show, party food and a visit from Santa which helped the term to finish on a real high. A big thank you goes to the staff for all their contributions over this busy time and to all the parents that volunteer their time to help make this such a magical time for the children.

If you would like to find out more about Bucklebury preschool or arrange a visit please contact our Administration and Registration Secretary, Penny Monksfield or visit our website www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk

Cara Shearn Bucklebury Preschool committee

1st Bucklebury Brownies

‘Butterfly’ has settled in nicely over the last term, new Brownies have joined, and some older ones have moved up to guides, allowing room for more new girls.

Lots of fun activities, trips out (Panto!) and fundraising (selling cakes at Bucklebury Farm Park) has taken place. January officially sees another 2 leaders joining, allowing the Brownies to accept more new ones, the only limit being space in the hall!

Educational and exciting meetings are planned for the start of 2012, including a trip to Newbury Firestation!

If you wish to contact the Brownies their email is (withheld)

Jo Livings



Preschool Christmas tree made entirely of preschoolers hand prints

1st Bucklebury Guides



Well, it is official, as from January 2012, we are full!! We now have an amazing Unit of 36 girls with a huge waiting list to boot, so

if you are interested in putting your daughter's name down, please get in contact as soon as possible (even if they are well off being 10).

Another full and fun-packed term has been and gone. Within this term the girls have done their *First Aid* and *Confectioner* badges and *Patrol Go For Its* to name but a few. We also had two outstanding individuals who have been working incredibly hard and have just completed their *Baden Powell Award*, the highest award available to Guides. So a big congratulations to Katie Tompkins and Vicky Pratt.

The girls have also been working hard to raise funds for their chosen charity this year, and have managed to raise a whopping £360 (so far) for *MacMillan Cancer Support*. Also this term the *Penguin Patrol* put an entry into the village *Christmas Tree Competition*, and had huge amounts of fun hand making the majority of their decorations. The older girls also had a cinema trip to watch the latest *Twilight* movie, and the weekend before Christmas we had our annual *Christmas Sleepover*. This year this was held in Compton, and we had great fun playing games, watching a film and of course eating chocolate and opening presents.

At the end of term we had a fab party, this year hosted by the *Panda Patrol*, who did a fantastic job in organising games, food and various other entertainment for all the Guides and those who are due to start with us in the new year.

Well, on to 2012 and all the other fun we have already planned!

If you would like to get in contact with us, please e-mail me. We are always looking for new adult helpers for both Brownies and Guides, so please do get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Claire Powers

West Berks Ballet School



The beginning of August saw our very first WBBS Summer School. We had chosen *The Lion King* and Claire came up with a 40 minute edited version, complete with all the favourite songs.

We had 30 students who worked hard all week (and played too!) and on the final day we were able to produce a very slick performance for the families and friends. The general feeling seems to be that we should repeat the venture in 2012. The story has already been chosen!

The Autumn Term is traditionally spent preparing for ballet exams. This year our Grade 3s and some of our most senior students will be examined. We all wish them the very best.

Early in December, 65 children from ballet schools all over the South of England, met at Arlington Arts Centre for our annual production of *Let's Make a Ballet*. Each year we choose a different theme and 2011 was *The Gallery*. Seven well-known paintings were interpreted by seven groups of children and the whole production was performed for the parents at the end of the day. Eighteen students from WBBS were chosen to take part and we all had a wonderful day.

Christmas is just round the corner and WBBS has been rewarded with several visits from Santa during our final week of term.

2012 will bring a group of our girls dancing in Kats pantomime in the February half-term and our own production for the modern and tap students in the summer.



Best wishes and good health to you all for 2012.

Jane Scholl & Claire Bowden

www.wbbs.org

Summer School production of The Lion King

Bucklebury History Group

It was lovely to see so many people at the meeting on Monday 14th November 2011 when we all enjoyed the memories that Bob Wyatt, Gunnels Farm, and Joe Paulin, The Slade, have about Bucklebury during the Second World War. We will be meeting again on Monday 23rd April in The Victory Room, 7:30p.m., and look forward to seeing you there to, hopefully, discover a little more about Bucklebury from residents' memories.

SOME MEMORIES OF BUCKLEBURY DURING WORLD WAR TWO

There was a searchlight in the field opposite Roselands in The Avenue, manned by 8 – 10 soldiers. There was also one in The Iron Church Meadow – the old gate is still there. Bob Wyatt played with the searchlights in the early evening and remembers the soldiers coming to the farm for milk. Water was piped to the field. There was a 10ft square hut in the field – the gateway was by Ryders – where Dr Bywater used to live. The searchlights were on trailers but never moved, as far as we are aware. Each searchlight had its own generator, which sometimes took 3 people to start it.

There were also searchlights in The Slade – one on the Lower Green and one on the Upper. There were huts on both greens and the generator was on the road.

There was also a Beacon halfway down Fanny's Lane. Incendiaries were dropped at Beenham.

All these searchlights were to help the defence of the air as there were aerodromes all around the Bucklebury area at Hampstead Norreys, Aldermaston etc. We think guns may have been sited at Theale at the depot on the present A4.

The Common Road was closed during the war and Bob's father had to have a licence for the milk lorries to pass through. Ann Tetlow can remember her father also having a licence as he was a teacher and had to travel to school regularly. There was a gate with a sentry box by the first crossroads.

Americans lived in tents (may have been Bell Tents) on The Avenue, near Cripps Farm, and grouped there prior to going overseas. The tents had slab floors with wooden pathways between them and when the Americans left they took the tents but left the floors and paths. These disappeared very quickly (recycled by the locals).

The Officer's Mess was by the old water tower (now demolished) at the crossroads.

The Americans left any excess food out to be collected as swill for the pigs but lots of it was still good so Bob's father used to take it into Reading when he was delivering milk, to share out.

There was also a Picture House down Hillier's Drive, where Bob can remember going to see films with the Americans, which were held every night. Joe can't remember the British troops in The Slade having such luxury.

One bomb dropped on Bucklebury, where the house called The Blitz now stands, and Joe can remember being in a barn at Winchcombe Farm when it landed.

Bob can also remember the allotments between the Beenham Road and Hillier Drive and 6 ponds along the road, one remains at the Beenham turn but the others were filled in by council workmen.

We also talked about the Common Gates – some mentioned were the gate at Tyler's Lane, the top of Hatch Lane, Bradfield Gate near Kings Copse House (this was removed to a house near the surgery). Animals were kept on the Common and the gates used to stop them from roaming. Joe remembers opening and closing the Slade Gate.

There were two Pounds in Bucklebury – one at Browns gate and one behind Haycroft in The Slade. The one at Browns gate still exists today.

Thank you, Bob & Joe for coming along to the meeting and regaling us all with your memories. We are very interested to hear from other people who would like to tell us their memories – either at a future meeting or beforehand.

Also, a big thank you to Allayne Amos who decorated the History Group's Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in The Victory Room. We hope you enjoyed looking at all the beautiful trees as much as we did.

Helen Relf

David Tipton

Bucklebury History Group

Come along to our next meeting on

MONDAY 23rd April 2012

**7.30p.m. in The Victory Room,
Bucklebury Village**

Discover more about our village

Tell us about any memories that you have

Help us put names to photographs

Check out the Bucklebury Database

Refreshments

Small charge to cover cost of hire of the hall

See you there!

Bucklebury Walkers

Start points and dates 2012:

Thursday 5th January, The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.

Thursday 2nd February, The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane,

Thursday 1st March, The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane.

Thursday 5th April, The Bladebone, Chapel Row

Thursday 3rd May, The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane

All walks meet at 10am, and coffee in the pub afterwards.

Halls

The Victory Room Bucklebury Village

BUCKLEBURY BEERFEST

SATURDAY, 1ST OCTOBER 2011



The year's Bucklebury Beerfest was an organiser's dream day. Who would have thought that October 1st would bring brilliant blue sunshine? It was like the summer we didn't have, with the search on for gazebos for shade instead of rain – brilliant!

It might have been the sun – or perhaps the beer & cider – that brought an exceptionally large and enthusiastic crowd to the Bucklebury Recreation ground once again for this free, annual event.

The Victory Room committee and our many volunteers were delighted with the attendance numbers, with families enjoying the fantastic bands in the marquee, the local trade stalls, entertainment and activities for children.

An amazing amount of publicity for the Beerfest has

Oli & Bucklebury Farm Park

continued as the Mini band's launch onto YouTube went global. Well done to all of the bands for providing great entertainment during the day.

We hope all of you who attended had a wonderful time, and will come along to the next Beerfest. The funds raised in October will be used to maintain and improve the Victory Room, to make sure it is available for all Bucklebury Parishioners in the future.

Planning will start early next year for the 2012 Beerfest, and your ideas and comments are always welcome. Contact any of the trustees listed below, if you'd like to make a suggestion, have a trade stall, sponsor a barrel or help out with this fun event.

Anne Ryder

Tim Culley

June Bearman

Julie Brims

Alastair McOran-Campbell

Jacquine Theunissen



Band in the marquee

Visitors enjoying the sunshine

HIGHLAND CEILIDH

Saturday 11th February 2012 (TBC)

We are having a Ceilidh in the Victory Room again this year. Pipe Major Ron Paterson and the St Andrews Scottish Dancers in the usual full Highland dress will demonstrate and lead a programme of reels, strathspeys and jigs, and exhibition dancers will perform flings, a sword dance and foursomes. They will then give instruction so that everyone (except the faint-hearted) can join in throughout the evening. There will also be a wee touch of Burns night tradition, the haggis will be piped in and poetry read, and plenty of food and refreshments.

This is a preliminary notice only so please watch for leaflets with more information or call the numbers below to book tickets. Please note the Victory room capacity for such an event is only about 60 so try to book early. Dress code is semi-formal with Highland dress and sashes where possible. There will be a light buffet supper with plenty of haggis and neeps and a fully stocked bar. Profits, if any, will go towards improvements at the Victory Room.

Tickets £15 from Alastair McOran-Campbell.



Relaxing crowd

Victory Room dates – see back page

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.

Fred Dawson Memorial Playpark

(BEHIND BUCKLEBURY MEMORIAL HALL)

If you use the Playpark, have you noticed that there's something different about the tube-slide now? It works really well at last!

The Memorial Hall Management Committee persevered to ensure that the slide manufacturers came back on site last October to change the shape which now means that children (about 5 yrs old and over) would get a faster slide experience. This meant having to remove the bend which wasn't working very well and replacing two newly-customised tube-components to create a simpler, straight design. The toddler slide is still well-used round the other side of the Multi-play Unit but finally we have a large tube-slide that enables users to ride all the way to the end.

Playground Facilities, the original Contractor, were also on-site to oversee the re-installation free of charge; complete some maintenance and, very kindly, they fixed the nest-swing barrier which had once again succumbed to vandalism and needed to be made up-right again. The park has been subject to some minor vandalism from time-to-time but fortunately our local, friendly, neighbourhood Special Constables are always "on the case".

The feedback received at a local level is generally extremely positive and there is enormous gratitude to everyone who



October 2012 at The Fred Dawson Memorial Play Park

helped to make the refurbishment of the Fred Dawson Memorial Park a reality. A very big thank you still goes out to all the Funders, the group of local Mums (PIP's) and everyone who worked so hard to facilitate this large project. I am very proud!

Mrs. Suzi Poole

Sports

Bucklebury Badminton Club

LEVEL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 29th January 2012, 12noon to 5:00pm

ELSTREE SCHOOL SPORTS HALL, WOOLHAMPTON



Once again the club is hosting this popular handicapped tournament. Entry is £6 per person and forms are available via website or the NDBA website or phone the number below. Closing date for entries is 22nd January.

All our teams are doing well this season. We have two men's and one mixed team as well as a team in the Blackford Cup (now in the second round).

We are very pleased to have many new players since September, including a large group of young people who are reminding us oldies how to cover the court! The lady players are also happy that we now have enough members to play ladies' doubles on club night.

Tuesday evenings are a sociable affair and usually finish with a drink in the Cottage Inn at Upper Bucklebury. The landlords, Gary and Mandy have kindly sponsored the club to enable us to develop our website and advertise more widely.

New members of all levels are always very welcome. With our four courts and a wide range of abilities, we can offer games for all. Just turn up on any Tuesday evening. If you want more information you can ring the number below or check out the website.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m.

Margaret Neville

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Tennis Club

Whilst this is not the time that everyone thinks of tennis, the Club still tries hard to keep those who want to play tennis occupied and amused!

YOUNG TALENT

Up until mid-October the Club coaching programme continued for Bucklebury Primary School children. Whilst some of the participants may well have wanted to continue, the sessions stop over the winter months to be resumed again after half term in the spring term.

BUDDING TALENT

Our Teens had a return match against Woolton Hill after their very successful first meeting earlier in the year. However this challenge was somewhat more evenly matched and we came away with a well-earned draw.

MATURE TALENT

Our adult players are now fully involved with the Newbury & District Winter League. For the last two years this has been run as a mixed team challenge with matches for Ladies, Men and Mixed Pairs all in the same team. This is a new format, which is gradually becoming more popular. It is certainly proving successful for Bucklebury with league positions half way through the winter programme as follows: A team is second in league 1; B team hold the top spot in league 2 and C Team in need of a little bit of encouragement to climb a couple of places in league 3 to keep up with their senior team mates! The team Captains are always keen to hear of new faces interested in playing so initially get in touch with Robin London 01635 865267 and you will be welcomed and certainly get a game.

SENIOR TALENT

Club Mix-ins for both the Men's and the Ladies still flourish but unfortunately our Mixed sessions seem to have dwindled to very low numbers. Maybe the New Year will bring on renewed enthusiasm?

THE FUTURE

The new season will start as soon as the clocks move on. In the meantime there will be plenty of opportunity for tennis and anyone wanting a game, or to join the Club for the coming season should give the undersigned a call, or fill in an application form our website www.buckleburytennisclub.com

NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

And finally a reminder of a couple of social dates to put in your diaries

Tuesday 31st January The Tennis Club Ladies Supper

Tuesday 14th February AGM

Mike James

Bucklebury Wolves FC

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BUCKLEBURY WOLVES!

2011 flew by for the Bucklebury Wolves Free Football Club! They enjoyed friendly 'away matches' locally, the "World Cup", the Martin Emmony Challenge Cup, "European Championships", lots of training at the Recreation Ground by the Victory Room (thanks to their Committee) and at Chapel Row Green (by kind permission).

In July, the Annual Club Presentation Awards & BBQ was held and attended by nearly 120 children with their families. The Bladebone Butcher in Chapel Row very kindly donated a great deal of meat and rolls so that the event could remain free and accessible to all members of the Club. The photo here shows some of the Wolves after presenting a team photograph to Sue & Martin Fiddler in the Autumn as a special "thank you".

The fun culminated with an appearance of the Wolves at Madjeski Stadium in November, taking penalties at half time as part of their Match Day Experience programme and filmed by Sky TV! There was even time to dress a Christmas tree for the Tree Decorating Competition which was well received by those who saw it.

The older team is enjoying a winter break at the moment but the extremely successful Wolf-Cubs team have carried on most Saturday mornings and are very grateful to Anthony Hodges and Mark Dennington who run that section with the help of Pearl James and Ian Rose.

February sees the Season start for the Wolves and the expansion of two new age groups which currently still have

places available. Tracy McGuire-Brown and Chris Jones will head-up a new ten year old team and Richard Jones with Jacinta George & Dave Bell are providing a fun and friendly 4 year olds session. All of these will also take place on a Saturday morning, usually in Bucklebury village as above.

If you would like more information or to book a place for your child in one of these new teams, please email me or visit our website.

There may even be some special news coming up in the next issue of *The Oaks* regarding the Olympic Games, so watch this space and best wishes for a fit and healthy 2012.

Jonathan Poole Coach & Manager
www.buckleburywolvesfc.sports.officelive.com



Bucklebury Walk

HOPGOOD'S GREEN, TYLER'S LANE, THE SLADE

From The Cottage Inn turn left down the first footpath across the fields to Byles Green and continue keeping the houses on your left. Turn left on to the road and then take the bridleway opposite Briar Cottage. Cross the road and follow the next bridleway to Turner's Green, turn right onto the main path and then left across the green past the houses and chapel on the right. Turn right onto the road and follow it down and round the corner to the bridge at the end.

Turn left at the T-junction and straight over at the cross paths. Turn right at the junction past Hopgood's Farm and then right onto the road. Continue down the road until you meet Tyler's Lane and

The Bucklebury Wolves F.C thank The Bladebone Butchers for providing much of the meat for this year's Club Presentation BBQ

there go straight over on the Byway/FP and follow the footpath across the field, up the hill and down the other side. Left at the next FP sign and keep left at the Y-junction, turn right and follow the arrows (middle of two fields) onto the original Holly Lane. At footpath sign turn left down the slope to a bridge and up and over the field. As you exit into the field you may walk through corn used as cover for the pheasants.

Head across the field, past the tree in the middle and up to the trees at the far side, where you follow the path through the wood and into the next field. Go over the stile at the far side, cross the road and follow the path up through the trees. When you come out at the top, cross the green, past the pond and take the path between the houses. This is the City Path at The Slade.

Cross the road at the end of the path onto Bucklebury Common, over the bridge and up Chapel Hill, past Blind John's Well and over the common. Keep in roughly a straight line following the signs to the large car park on Fanny's Lane. Cross the road and, again keeping almost a straight line, follow the path to a main lane. Turn right here, cross the road, follow the footpath opposite and then turn left onto Broad Lane and back past Peaches Stores and Garage to the start.

HeLen ReIf

Pang & Kennet Valley Countryside Projects

As you may have heard, the *Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group* (FWAG) went into administration recently, resulting in the closure of all of its 29 offices across the UK, including the one based at Engelfield with whose officers we have worked very closely over the last 20 years. However, whilst this is a significant disappointment, especially for the five people previously employed there, the Friends of the Pang, Kennet and Lambourn Valleys intend to continue our work with local landowners, farmers, Parish Councils, etc. to help them to manage the countryside in an environmentally-friendly fashion. We have the resources, the skills and



The Pang Valley Volunteers get stuck in!



The Volunteers take a well earned coffee break!

enthusiasm in abundance, and, given the increasing financial pressures, especially on local authorities, the need is becoming greater.

The Friends of the Pang and Kennet Valley Countryside Project has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside in the two valleys. The events below are co-ordinated by *The Friends* and give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

For further information please see the Website – www.pangandkennetvalleys.org.uk

Tue 10th Jan – Hockett Field, Upper Bucklebury – Hedge maintenance – 10am

Come along to Hockett Field and help with maintenance of the hedgerows around the field. Park on the area of concrete standing, south of the Bucklebury to Chapel Row Road a few yards east of the Cox's Lane junction at SU 547687. It may be possible, on the day, to drive through this hard standing, follow the track and park in Hockett Field.

Tue 17th Jan – Garden Cottage, Streatley – Water Meadow Management – 10am

Join us as we continue vital work at Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreational Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Rd. Grid Ref: SU 593 812

Tue 24th Jan – Grove Pit Common, Leckhampstead – Coppicing – 10am

Come along and help us with coppicing, scrub clearing and small tree felling, at Grove Pit Common. Access the common via the track which leaves the B4494 Westward at Cotwold Farm SU440777. Drive approx 700 yards up the track to

the common. Please take care this is a car's width track used by horse riders.

Tue 31st Jan – Mapleash Copse, Snelmore Common – Coppicing – 10am

Come coppicing for stakes and binders in Mapleash Copse ancient woodland on Snelmore Common. Meet at Bussock Hill House, Snelmore Common, Chieveley. Grid ref: SU 462 718

Tue 7th Feb – Garden Cottage, Streatley – Water Meadow Management – 10am

Join us as we continue vital work at Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreational Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Rd. Grid Ref: SU 593 812

Tue 14th Feb – Holt Lodge Farm – Coppicing – 10am

Join us with some coppicing at Holt Lodge farm. Meet at the Farmhouse, near Kintbury. Grid ref: SU 387 648.

Tue 21st Feb – Ashampstead Common – Creating Veteran tree halos – 10am

Come and help Dick Greenaway clear and create a new veteran tree halo in this beautiful woodland. Meet at the car park, Ashampstead Common. Grid ref: SU 587 751

Tue 28th Feb – Bucklebury Common – Heathland Management – 10am

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Management Group with their heathland management tasks. Meet at Angel's Corner on Bucklebury Common. Grid ref: SU 550 688

Tue 6th Mar – Ashampstead Common – Clearing Veteran tree halos- 10am

Come and help Dick Greenaway clear lop and top from halos around veteran trees in this beautiful woodland. Meet at The Cottage, Ashampstead Common. Grid ref: SU 5768 7511

Tue 13th Mar – Bucklebury Common – Heathland Management – 10am

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Management Group with their heathland management tasks. Meet at Angel's Corner on Bucklebury Common. Grid ref: SU 550 688

Tue 20th Mar – Garden Cottage, Streatley – Water Meadow Management – 10am

Join us as we continue vital work at Thames water meadows near Streatley. Meet at the Recreational Ground car park, top of Cleeve Court Rd. Grid Ref: SU 593 812

Tue 27th Mar – Grove Pit Common, Leckhampstead – Coppicing – 10am

Come along and help us with coppicing, scrub clearing and small tree felling at Grove Pit Common. Access the common via the track which leaves the B4494 Westward at Cotwold Farm SU440777. Drive approx 700 yards up the track to the common. Please take care this is a car's width track used by horse riders.

Colin Layton

Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group

It's been a good year on the Common this year.

In the late summer the heather was in flower in all its glory on the Lower and Upper Commons.

The Night-jars came back in strength, we had at least 3 calling males, and I saw pairs flying together on several evenings. The Wood Larks were on both sides of Carbins Wood Lane, I even heard a bird singing in November! Tree Pipits reappeared in the spring, we even saw Redpoll on the common last week.

The maintenance is just keeping up. A contractor "weed wiped" 4 acres of silver birch. A swipe is coming in after Christmas to flail an area that has got away from us, and in November, 26 willing students from Reading cleared and burnt a huge area of silver birch.

The volunteers work steadily through the winter keeping up appearances!

We have had some generous financial support from well wishers.

Tim Culley

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 Lindy Clarke. 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

JANUARY

5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
10 th	Pang & Kennet Valley	Hedge Maintenance	10am	Hockett Field
10 th	Tuesday Ladies' Group		7.45pm	Memorial Hall, Oak Room
28 th	Greening Bucklebury	Launch Event	2.30pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
29 th	Badminton Club	Level Doubles Championship	12Noon	Elstree School, Woolhampton
31 st	Tennis Club	Ladies' Supper		The Cottage Inn, Broad Lane

FEBRUARY

2 nd	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
4 th	Bucklebury Wolves		10am	Recreation Ground
7 th	Tuesday Ladies' Group		7.45pm	Memorial Hall, Oak Room
11 th	Victory Room Committee	Ceilidh	7.30pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury
14 th	Tennis club	AGM		Memorial Hall, Committee Room
28 th	Pang & Kennet Valley	Heathland Management	10am	Angels Corner

MARCH

1 st	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
13 th	Pang & Kennet Valley	Heathland Management	10am	Angels Corner
13 th	Tuesday Ladies' Group		7.45pm	Memorial Hall, Oak Room
24 th	Parish Council	Commons Clearing	2pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
24 th	Village Events Committee	Wine Quaffing	7.30pm	Bucklebury Farm Park

APRIL

5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Bladebone, Chapel Row
23 rd	Macmillan Cancer Support	Pam Eyres at the Vineyard	12.30pm	The Vineyard, Stockcross
23 rd	Bucklebury History Group	Open Meeting	7.30pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury

MAY

3 rd	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
-----------------	--------------------	--	------	-------------------------

JUNE

3 rd	Village Events Committee	Diamond Jubilee Tea in the Park	TBA	Bucklebury Farm Park
-----------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------	-----	----------------------

Published in January, April and September

by Bucklebury Parish Council.

Helen Pratt, Clerk,

Jasmine Cottage, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury,

Reading, RG7 6SD Phone: 01635 863581

E-mail: buckleburyparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Copyright © Bucklebury Parish Council, 2011

(Printed by The Alpha Xperience, Newbury

Telephone 01635 523240)

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

<http://buckleburyparish.org/OaksMagazine.aspx>