

# The Oaks



*Inside this issue:*

**Bucklebury Parish Council**

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Bucklebury Cemetery   | 3  |
| Neighbourhood Watch   | 3  |
| <b>WB Councillors</b> | 4  |
| <b>Family</b>         | 4  |
| <b>Organisations</b>  | 7  |
| <b>Sport</b>          | 11 |
| <b>Country Life</b>   | 12 |
| <b>Contributions</b>  | 16 |

## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

What's changed since last January?

Well, what hasn't changed were the wonderful Christmas celebrations in the parish, including the carols at the cemetery even though this year we had to contend with rain rather than the more picturesque snow!

We are still waiting for David Wilson Homes to complete the work on the meadows behind the Cottage Inn before the legal work can be completed. Last year I wrote that I thought the transfer would be completed by April. I hope this year it might be!

The 4x4's are still using the River Pang as a playground, destroying the banks, eroding the road verge and causing environmental damage. We have had lots of correspondence with WBC, the environment agency and the police. Fortunately we were at the ford when contractors were clearing out the ditches and we persuaded them to build up the banks by the little ford where the erosion was particularly bad. We are hoping to place posts along the road to help prevent further damage. If you see anyone behaving irresponsibly please take a photo if you can, take registration numbers and alert the police. The damage by 4x4's also continues on the common and it is planned to place CCTV cameras in suitable locations to try to catch the culprits. The Commons Advisory Committee is heavily involved in this.

The traffic around the school at the beginning and end of the school day continues to cause concern. Last term there were two near accidents. The Parish Council is discussing the problems with a very worried parent so hopefully some progress may be made. The demands on our precept have not changed either so we anticipate another small rise for the next financial year.

So, what's new?  
Anne Hillerton has joined the Parish Council.

She has lived in the parish for many years, taught at Woolhampton Primary School where she was a governor and has been a very supportive and interested member of the community. We now have a record number of four women councillors!

We have grit bins at several new sites in the parish. If you think a grit bin would be an advantage anywhere, please contact the clerk.

It was suggested that the official name of the road between The Blade Bone and Marlston should be investigated. This has been done. No clear conclusion was drawn, so it has been decided to leave things as they are.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BOWT) have signed an agreement with WBC to take over the management of open spaces in West Berkshire from this January. Bucklebury Common falls into this category. BBOWT will be working closely with the Estate Office and a representative will be on the Common Advisory committee

The West Berkshire Countryside Society will continue to give the parish advice and support and we are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group of people at our disposal. Last year there were 12 working parties of 15 volunteers working 6 hour days which amounts to about 1000 hours of hard work! On several occasions we asked the society for advice on managing land owned by the parish. This year among other things they will be clearing some of the ponds in the parish.

The parish council are supporting the application by the Tennis Club for additional lighting.

BPC had discussed commemorating the birth of Prince George in some way. After much discussion it was decided that since Mr Hartley Russell is erecting two gate posts on the

Parish Council Chairman  
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk  
Helen Pratt

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Common at the east end of The Avenue to commemorate both the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as well as the royal birth that this would suffice.

Moving ahead from a very wet and chilly January day to the spring, Common clearing will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The usual delicious cakes will be provided.

We wish you all a good 2014,  
Wynne Frankum— Chairman of Bucklebury Parish Council

## Parish Council Matters Arising

### Police Liaison Group

While it appears that we are currently enjoying some respite from the wave of anti-social behaviour that swept the parish during 2012-3, unfortunately other forms of crime have replaced it. We have seen a number of thefts from garages and outbuildings, and more recently, a number of vehicle-related thefts. The thefts from outbuildings are sadly endemic in rural communities and are no more prevalent here than in other similar parishes. It is recognised that this is not very reassuring, please be aware of locking outbuildings and ensuring that all items are secured as best they can be – please be vigilant. The police have recently arrested a number of youths in connection with car crime in the wider area, which will hopefully put a stop to these instances. However, again please be vigilant by removing valuables from vehicles and ensuring that anything stored in them is removed from sight.

Thames Valley Police have been highly pro-active in dealing the recent bout of vehicle-related thefts, but without our continued support they can only achieve so much. That support comes mainly in the form of reporting criminal activity, the necessity of which cannot be overstressed. The Police Liaison Committee continues to monitor the crime situation and aims to mobilise local support as and when appropriate. There have also been a number of recent initiatives instigated, which have ranged from the provision of crime prevention advice at one of the local societies to the provision of a covert, low-light camera by the Parish Council. This camera is to be deployed, in consultation with the police and WBC, around the parish as required to deal with crime. Initial locations are likely to involve those remote areas on and around the Common that are subject to abuse by 4x4s. The police will use any evidence gathered to try and secure prosecutions.

However, all these initiatives are only successful with the continued assistance of parish members. Ultimately we have to provide the police with the tools to do their job, and that basically means providing them with information about crimes that have been or are being committed. PCSO Sarah Preston has explained elsewhere in The Oaks about communicating with the police, but in short, if a crime is actually taking place dial 999, if you have to report a previous crime or have information about one then dial 101 or report online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportonline](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportonline). Crime Stoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555111. You should have previously received sticky reminder labels with these

numbers on; if you have not please contact the Parish Clerk. Please do not hesitate to pass any information however trivial it appears to the police.

Criminal activities have not been limited to anti-social behaviour:

- Burglaries are still occurring, so please be vigilant, especially of garages, sheds and oil tanks; though figures for the Bucklebury area are the same as for other rural communities.
- Speeding is still endemic. The Police are very much aware, and police and WBC cameras continue to be deployed.
- Flytipping continues around different parts of the Common. If you see someone fly-tipping then please report details to the police, otherwise report the rubbish to [streetcare@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:streetcare@westberks.gov.uk) or to the Parish Clerk. It will normally be removed within 48 hours. Please remember that you may inadvertently become involved with fly tipping (with an associated fine of up to £5,000) if you give waste to an unlicensed person for disposal. Please be wary.
- Vehicles driving on the Common continue to be an issue. There are a number of sites around the Common where vehicles are being driven illegally. Driving anywhere off-road is illegal, as is driving on footpaths and bridleways, and all need to be reported to the police. Equally, it is illegal to drive on an unrestricted byway without full insurance, tax and MOT, and even with these users need to be considerate to others, not damage the surface and observe road and bylaws. There are a number of circumstances where these requirements are not being met – there is a lot of damage to the banks of the Pang, a track has been established on the Lower Common and there are the usual areas of ‘mud plugging’ (churning up tracks). The police cannot be in every location all the time, so if you see vehicles on the common either off the byways or causing damage to the surface, please do not hesitate to contact the police. Your report will help build the intelligence as to usage that will allow the police to be pro-active in catching law-breakers. All parties involved are committed to eradicating illegal use of the common, so please report any vehicles that are not driving on byways, are damaging the surface or being driven in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner. Photos and/or registrations are obviously beneficial. In a similar manner, the Hockett Field is privately owned and not to be used for motor cycles – if your children are doing this please stop them.

In summary, if we wish the Police to be able to do their job, we must continue to report instances as we are aware of them, whether this is burglary or anti-social behaviour or 4x4s on the Common.

Bucklebury Police Liaison Group

#### Visit of PCSO to AM Coffee Morning All Saints' Church, Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6QH

Come and hear local PCSO Sarah Preston, who is based at Newbury Police Station talk on the subjects of

- Home and property safety
- Personal safety
- Scams and how to try and avoid them,

followed by a time for questions.

This will be held on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, 10am for a prompt 10.15 start. The talk should finish by 11.45am and is in conjunction with the weekly coffee morning and Post Office session. Everyone is welcome.

## Neighbourhood Watch

The following Neighbourhood Watch groups exist within the parish.

|  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| Burden's Heath                                 | <i>Rob Tayton</i>                        | 01635 865495  |
| Turner's Green                                 | <i>Neil Rendall</i>                      | 01635 865899  |
| Blacklands Rd, Berry's Road and Woodside Close | <i>Mrs S Dorling &amp; Mrs. S. Poole</i> | 01635 864256  |
| Bucklebury Village                             | <i>B Ward</i>                            | 0118 971 2581 |
| Hatch Close                                    | <i>C Fleming</i>                         | 0118 971 2315 |
| Hatch Lane(central)                            | <i>Frank Harvell</i>                     | 0118 971 0021 |
| The Avenue (east end, south side)              | <i>Mrs J Bynwater</i>                    | 0118 974 4124 |
| The Avenue (east end, north side)              | <i>John Travis</i>                       | 0118 974 4616 |
| The Slade                                      | <i>Hilary Cairns</i>                     | 01635 866021  |
| Briff Lane                                     | <i>Philip Teal</i>                       | 01635 866587  |
| Broad Lane (track)                             | <i>Ian Westbury</i>                      | 01635 864230  |
| Broad Lane (west)                              | <i>Richard Sadler</i>                    | 01635 865846  |
| Broad Lane (east)                              | <i>Becky Hannam</i>                      | 01635 863313  |
| Morton's Lane                                  | <i>Geraldine Tovey</i>                   | 01635 866757  |
| Byles Green                                    | <i>Jeremy Brooke</i>                     | 01635 863035  |

If you live in an area covered and wish to join, please contact the co-ordinator. Alternatively, if you live in an area not covered and are interested in being a neighbourhood watch coordinator, please contact the Clerk for more information.

## Bucklebury Cemetery



Another very successful Carols by Candlelight was held before Christmas and £115 was raised for the Newbury Food Bank. We were as usual indebted to a number of people: Lindsey McNish for running the programme in his own inimitable style, Steve and Sarah Beeson for providing the lighting and delicious mulled wine, Julian Dobbins on the keyboard for keeping us, mainly, in tune, Dominic and Theo Powell for welcoming everybody with their music, Evan Pocock and Maya Shingadia for playing lovely solos and the primary school recorder group for their beautiful playing. Chris Austin kindly supplied the outside speaker which meant we could all hear what was going on. Various members of the Parish Council made the delicious mince pies and the rain held off!

Various works needed to be carried out both on the chapel and the back gates this year and BPC are still awaiting various quotes. A tree survey has been carried out but fortunately little work needs to be done.

C R landscapes continue to do an excellent job of keeping the cemetery grounds in good order.

Gill Coats most kindly continues to keep the graves tidy but only throws away floral tributes that have died or, in the case of artificial flowers and wreaths, those that have become too shabby.

The Burial Board will have a working party this year to tackle some of the selfsown holly in the older part of the cemetery.

Wynne Frankum Chairman of the Burial Board.

## Broadband for Bucklebury

In the twenty-first century, none of our rural communities in West Berkshire, or indeed the country at large, should be neglected when it comes to a superfast broadband network. The roll-out, which will see 100 per cent of properties in Bucklebury receive basic broadband (2mbit/s) and 68 per cent receive superfast coverage (24mbit/s), is due to be completed by September 2015.

I am certain that all readers of *The Oaks* will agree that a superfast network will serve as the foundation for new economic dynamism, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and adding billions to our GDP. Access to the internet is fundamental for business and education and this will only intensify as Britain continues to compete in the global race. This is in my opinion, the single most important thing we can do to ensure the sustainability of our rural communities and to end the digital divide.

Last month, I and West Berkshire Council Leader, Gordon Lundie, met with Ed Vaizey, the Minister responsible for the £1.5 billion roll-out. I conveyed my disappointment that not all households will benefit from a superfast connection. I and the Council are continuing to push the government, so that all premises will be covered.

If you are interested, further details can be found at Superfast Berkshire: <http://www.superfastberkshire.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=23265>

If readers wish to discuss this, or any other matters, please get in touch with my office on 01635 551070, e-mail [benyonr@parliament.uk](mailto:benyonr@parliament.uk) or tweet me @RichardBenyonMP.

## Welcome Pack

If you are a newcomer to the Parish, and you have not yet received a Welcome Pack, please contact the Clerk, Helen Pratt, for a copy (her details are on the back page).

## Parish Website

BPC maintains a Bucklebury Website which contains a diary of things going on in the parish, minutes of all BPC meetings, a list of amenities and services and much more. If you run a business within the parish and wish to have details listed on the site, please contact the Clerk.

The Website can be found at [www.buckleburyparish.org](http://www.buckleburyparish.org).

## Bucklebury Clubs/Organisations

The Clerk maintains a list of clubs and organisations within the parish. This list is included in the Welcome Pack and on the website. If you would like a copy or would like to be included on the list, please contact the Clerk.

### 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](mailto:gpask@westberks.gov.uk)

Quentin Webb Tel/Fax: 01635 202646  
Email: [qwebb@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:qwebb@westberks.gov.uk)

### WBC Councillors' Report

West Berkshire Council has just completed lengthy negotiations with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to form a partnership to manage the Council's countryside assets including Bucklebury Common and the Nature Discovery Centre in Thatcham. Ownership of the Common still remains with the Bucklebury Estate and the Common Advisory Committee will still meet to coordinate and advise on the works that are carried out on the Common. The ranger service will be run by BBOWT and I would not expect you to notice many changes in the way in which the Common is managed, the main advantage to working with BBOWT is that they are able to access different grants and other funding which the Council is unable to do which will make a big difference to the various projects we run over the next ten years.

With spring just around the corner I am sure many produce more green waste than fits into the green bin so just a reminder that the recycling facility at Padworth is open from 12.30 until 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday for most items (main exclusions are general household waste, furniture and asbestos/plasterboard) and is so much quicker and more convenient than going all the way to the Newtown Road site in Newbury. I have never found much of a queue there either so don't tell too many people!

As reported elsewhere in this edition of The Oaks there was, sadly, another spate of vandalism and criminal damage to property and vehicles over the festive season. The police have been quick to respond and have made a number of arrests but it is important to remain vigilant and, apologies for stating the obvious, do make sure that all valuable items are removed from cars and vans overnight. It is essential to phone the police on

999 if you see a crime being committed or 101 if you have to report anything less urgent to the police. To reassure everyone the police are very aware of what has been happening and Bucklebury is very much on their "radar" with the number of patrols increased routinely.

As always if there is any issue we can help with please contact us, wishing everyone a peaceful and happy 2014!

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](mailto: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 101.

### Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team

If you have any issues and you would like to talk to a neighbourhood officer, please don't hesitate to contact us on 101 or at the following email addresses:

[sarah.preston@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sarah.preston@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)  
[kirsten.goodfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kirsten.goodfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO Sarah Preston C9881

### Family



## BUCKLEBURY



## PRE-SCHOOL

Bucklebury Pre-School has been accredited with the new West Berkshire Early Years Quality Award. We have been assessed across all aspects of the key criteria for the award with many areas exceeding expectations;

"what really shines through is the passion and understanding of the child being at the centre. In particular your stimulating and

thoughtful learning environment and communication with parents are areas of strength as is the knowledge of child development and their individual needs.”

Our award was presented on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013 during a ceremony at the Town Hall. An award such as this is testament to the excellent work that our team of experienced and dedicated staff do in shaping our children for their next step to primary school. Our Supervisor Sue Bristow is now attending workshops mentoring and advising other practices wanting to achieve this accolade.

Situated at the Memorial Hall in Upper Bucklebury, Bucklebury Pre-School has been running since 1966. Admission to the Pre-School is open to every family in the community and to families from the surrounding areas.

Set in a semi-rural location Bucklebury Pre-School offers a fun and friendly environment for your child including a wide range of toys and activities to help with imaginative play and learning. The Pre-School enjoys the use of an outdoor area and the children have access to bikes, trikes, prams and larger outdoor play equipment.

Put simply our aims are;

- to enhance the development and education of our children in a parent-involving, community based group
- to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment
- to work within a framework that ensures equal opportunity for all children and their families

Bucklebury Pre-School is able to offer spaces to children from the age of 2 ½ years and with some spaces available we are still accepting enquiries for Sept 2014. Please visit our website [www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk](http://www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk) or telephone 07786 770860 for further information.

## Bucklebury Pre-School Mud Kitchen

Do you have any unwanted kitchen equipment that you would be willing to donate for our new Mud Kitchen!

Items we need:

- Cake/bun tins
- Egg timer
- Saucepans
- Frying pan
- Pestle and mortar
- Pastry brushes
- Towels
- Kettle
- Cup hooks
- Wicker basket
- Kitchen scales
- Preserving pan



- Ladles
- Potatoe masher
- Old garden bench (it can be broken)
- Wooden crates
- Small wooden shelf
- Wooden spoons/spatular
- Wooden salad bowl and servers
- Metal jugs (or plastic)
- Old sink (stainless steel or Butler style)
- Wallpaper pasting table
- Metal mixing bowls
- Washing up brushes

Any unwanted equipment can be dropped off at Bucklebury Memorial Hall on Monday, Wednesday or Thrusday between 9.30am and 3.30pm during term time.

## Bucklebury CofE School

Most readers will know of Bucklebury Primary School, that provides quality education to around 120 children between 4 and 11 years of age, thanks to the dedicated efforts of teachers and support staff. However you may not be aware that the strategic direction for the school is provided by governors; unpaid volunteers who are accountable to the children, parents, staff and the Local Authority. The school is looking for a governor from our local community to join us, but as this is an unpaid role that requires about four hours work per week, you might ask yourself why anyone would volunteer.

It is often said that “children are our future”. The prosperity of this country is affected by the skills of people as they join the workforce. Research clearly shows that children who are below Government targets when they leave primary school are quite likely to leave secondary school with poor results. They are less likely to get jobs than children who exceeded these targets, and indeed a substantially higher percentage of children with below average primary age results will end up in prison compared to children who obtained average or higher results.

The reason we become governors is because the work we do today, for primary age children, will have an impact on their whole lives. We don't get a financial reward for what we do, but if we fulfil our roles well, we receive considerable satisfaction from knowing that we are improving life chances for local children. What better reward could there be?

If you are interested in becoming a governor at Bucklebury School, please look at the school website to find out more about the governor role, at [www.buckleburyschool.org.uk](http://www.buckleburyschool.org.uk) If you remain interested, please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office. Whilst we would be keen to talk to anyone who has time and enthusiasm to help the School, we are particularly interested to hear from people with HR skills, or with a legal background. Don't worry that you don't know much about how a school operates – training is provided.

**Iain Davies—Chair of Governors.**

## West Berkshire Ballet School

2014 off we go.....2013 ended with several visits from Father Christmas so we must have been very, very good. A week later we had some ballet exams but no results yet! However, just before the end of 2013 we heard that Holly had flown through her final assessment and will receive her Diploma in Dance Education this Spring – many congratulations from us all, Holly!

Our first excitement of the New Year is a school trip to Charlie & The Chocolate Factory at London's beautiful Drury Lane Theatre. 66 of us will pile into our coach for what we are sure will be a wonderful evening.



WBBS Christmas staff party 2013

Claire is planning to stage the super-soul musical, *The Wiz*, at our hall, for the modern & tap students in July. Rehearsals have begun and we shall announce details of how to obtain tickets in the next edition of *The Oaks*. It promises to be an excellent production, featuring some of our senior boys and girls who will be leaving us this summer to go on to university.

Dominic has begun auditioning to go on to a vocational school this September. Things are looking good as he has already received a 'call back' from London's Central School of Ballet – very best of luck Dom.

In March, we have a 3-hour Professional Masterclass planned for 24 selected students. The class is being taught by Michael Berkin, from the Royal Ballet School and the dancers will be learning excerpts from the ballet 'La Fille Mal Gardée' with their parents being invited to watch the final result.

We are sadly bidding farewell to Cara Drower at the end of this term. Cara, a Fellow of the ISTD and senior examiner, has been traveling from London, twice a week, to teach at WBBS for the past 12 years. She has decided to move to the seaside and retire from regular teaching. Happily she will continue to train future teachers but we shall all miss her vast experience and wisdom – however she has promised to make regular visits in the future.

Claire, Holly & Jane look forward to welcoming our new dancers

this term and wish them and the established students a very happy dancing 2014.

Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden, Holly Unnuk  
wbbs.org see us on facebook too!

## 1st Bucklebury Guides



**Girlguiding**

1st Bucklebury Guides

*girls in the lead*

Happy New Year to you all from us at Guides!

We ended 2013 with a bang on our Christmas Guide Holiday at Youlbury in Oxford. We all had a fab time fitting in our very own

Christmas Eve to New Years Day over the course of two days and enjoyed party games, midnight feasts and presents under the tree. We were very lucky with the weather too as we took part in zip wire and geocache trails as well as fun crafts, nail painting and games. We also had our very own Santa CSI puzzle to solve, finding clues and completing tasks dotted around the site at night, to work out where the Grinch had hidden Rudolf. All in all the weekend was a huge success and the Guides enjoyed themselves.

The New Year brings new activities and challenges. The girls are working towards their independent living and personal safety badges, amongst other things, this term. These involve everything from the dangers of drugs and alcohol to cooking on a budget and knowing how to write a cheque. We also have various events planned such as a trip to the cinema and swimming pool, and hosting this year's Thinking Day event for the District.

Like most clubs and youth groups, we have to plan well in advance to ensure we can do as much as we can with the girls. We get involved in some community activities such as commons clearing, but are interested in doing other things to benefit the local community, particularly in the summer months. If you have a project that you think may be suitable, or an event that we can help support, please do get in touch via email at the address below.

Likewise, if you feel that you can help us in Guiding, whether it be just a one off with a particular skill or activity you would like to share, or on a more regular basis at meetings as a helper, please do get in touch. Bucklebury has thriving Guide and Ranger Units, and a Brownie unit that is desperate for adult help. Long gone are the days where Girl Guides are unable to do what Scouts do, we try and offer just as interesting activities but with the added bonus of being in an "all girl" environment. With so much peer pressure put onto the youth of today, the girls find it is quite liberating to be in such an atmosphere and able to talk freely about the things that matter to them, and choose what they want to do with their time. Someone asked me not so long ago why I bother to give up my time for Guides. I think the words 'sitting in a circle singing gin gang gooley' were also mentioned. My answer was that it is amazing what each individual can get from different aspects of Guides. Whether that is opportunities to do things they might not get otherwise, a safe place to talk without ridicule, making new friends for life, helping out others who are less fortunate or just plain having fun when all other parts of life seem so stressful. Guiding is amazing. The girls are fab and the adults who help the units are all superstars in my book. We are not a fuddy duddy organisation and can always do with another bright spark or two

to help. Interested in finding out more, then get in touch by emailing [elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk)

Claire Powers (Unit Leader)

## Bradfield and District Young Farmers' Club

Are you aged between 10 and 26? Are you looking for something to do on a Wednesday evening? Then Bradfield YFC may just well be for you!!

You don't have to be a farmer to be a Young Farmer but if you enjoy making new friends, taking part in sports and other outdoor activities, crafts, talks, travel, organising events, conservation, and heaps of other activities come and have a go! There are even opportunities to travel and work abroad!

It is the New Year and for our first meeting back we went Ice Skating in Bracknell. We have lots of exciting times ahead with sports competitions, pre-show and then the YFC Show! What we do is decided by the members with some guidance from club leaders who are all CRB checked and First Aid trained.

We are looking forward to the upcoming months for activities and the start of competitions.

So if you have some energy to spare, please contact Simon Fernandez 07876 493236 or Jessica Dewey 07725 037771 and they can tell you what we are up to!

## Organisations

### Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



We are a very friendly informal group who meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall at 7-45pm. There is no membership fee, you just pay £2.00 each time you come.

Our autumn programme last year varied from a talk on the Alexander Technique, a chance to buy delicious homemade chocolates and other goodies for Christmas to our very enjoyable Christmas party.

For 2014 we have an equally varied programme. In January we started with a very interesting and amusing talk, by Richard Sadler on John Lewis and Waitrose. This will be followed by a talk on "We are what we eat" in February, a Turkish cookery demonstration in March, a meal at the Cottage Inn for April and a talk on St Paul's Cathedral in May. For June and July we will have a local history walk and a garden visit.

We hope you can come and join us and look forward to seeing some new faces in 2014.

Jackie Sadler and Wynne Frankum, co –chairs

### *A Highland Ceilidh And Burns Night*

*With Exhibition and Scottish Dancing  
Piping, Pibroch and Songs*

*We are having another Ceilidh in the Victory Room in February including the traditional Burns Night ceremony marking the Scottish Bard's 255th birthday*

*Pipe Major Ron Patterson and the St Andrews Scottish Dancers will be in full highland dress and will demonstrate and lead the programme of reels, strathspeys and fings and everyone can join in as usual. All are welcome including young people who may not have joined in before.*

*The Haggis will be piped in, followed by a toast to Robbie Burns recited before a tot or two of whisky and a traditional two course supper, and then dancing and more toasts. There will of course be a bar and the usual raffle.*

*In the Victory Room, Bucklebury Village*

*At 7.30 for 8pm on*

*Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2014*

*Tickets £15 (£7.50 for under 16's): family discounts and further information from John Clarke 0118 971 2768 or Alastair McCran-Campbell 0118 971 2323  
[mccran@btinternet.com](mailto:mccran@btinternet.com) or [www.buckleburyweb.co.uk](http://www.buckleburyweb.co.uk)*

## Buckelbury and Marlston Horticultural Society

Once again we start the year gazing out over water-logged gardens, with not much to do but make plans for the year ahead. Our new yellow schedules have been distributed and give the detail of our activities for the coming months. We hope that huge numbers of our members take advantage of the opportunities on offer, and better still bring a friend or neighbour, they are always welcome! The seed catalogues are out; orders are being processed, and deliveries expected during February.

Our first evening meeting took place only three days into the New Year, when about fifty members attended a presentation by photographic judge, Ray Foan. His tips on digital photos would have been in better focus had his images been projected onto the Hall's large screen, but his advice will hopefully inspire members to visualise an entry or two in the Autumn Show photographic classes (classes 66-69). Modern digital cameras are simple to use, and brilliant pieces of technology, but it still needs a human to capture that winning shot. The next presentation, on Friday 21st February, is a rare opportunity to hear first-hand, about new plant discoveries from remote areas in Kashmir. This meeting will also include a bumper 200 Club draw, with an accumulation of lucky winners. Later, in March, we travel to exotic Mexico for more adventures, let us hope that the heat of the tropics is an omen for an improvement in the weather during the weeks leading up to our Spring Show.

Last autumn we finished the year with three events. The social was a sell-out, and whilst the entertainment was a challenge for many, the supper and opportunity to relax with friends was a welcome pleasure. Poor weather preceded our late trip to Wisley, and only a few made the short journey. However, as a small group, we enjoyed a free guided tour of this wonderful garden. There was plenty to see, but the damp, mild October was delaying the autumn display. The best of the colour became evident during late November, and was particularly colourful in Bucklebury this year, with birches, larch, mountain ashes, field maples, beech and oak making fine, lasting contributions. Even the motorway embankments were stunning. Next year's FREE trip to Wisley is on 5<sup>th</sup> July, a week before our Summer Show, when we hope that the weather will be fine and the recently re-landscaped rose beds in first flush.

Our final meeting of the year was the AGM, when our year was reviewed and plans laid down for the future. To end a year which has proved particularly good for apples, we were entertained by Tim Wale, local Tutts Clump Cider producer, and closed the proceedings with wine and cheese refreshments.

Details of all our activities are included in our 2014 schedule, if you feel you can spare time to help the society, or have ideas on new ventures, please let me know. The average length of service of the current committee is in excess of 20 years; we would dearly love to reduce this statistic! Despite this we remain a vibrant, financially sound, successful and friendly club. We are particularly keen to attract younger gardeners with fresh views and new vitality. In 2013 our Children's classes were very poorly

supported, and we will be looking to encourage young parents, youth groups and the school to reverse this trend. New members are always welcome, contact John Wright (01635 863429). All our meetings are free of charge, and guests are invited to try before you buy.

Happy Gardening.

Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

## Bucklebury Community Events

### Christmas Tree Festival 2013

A beautiful, creative display of Christmas trees was on display for this popular event, now in its third year. The Victory Room was filled with twinkling lights, trees decorated with a fairy tale theme and the drifting scent of mulled wine. The Bucklebury Events team would like to give a huge 'thank you' to everyone who participated by either entering a tree into the competition, volunteering to help on the day, or coming along to admire the creativity and vote for your favourite trees. Also two local lads, Aran & Sayer Willett entertained the crowd with beautiful and accomplished performances of songs. We are fortunate to have such talented youngsters on our door step.

Proceeds of £150 from the Christmas Tree Festival were donated to Loose Ends, a drop-in centre providing food, clothes, bedding and friendly support for the homeless and vulnerable in Newbury.



The school receiving their prize from Father Christmas for the best tree in the children's section .

### Bucklebury Community Events – 2014 Calendar

Quiz night – Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> at *The Memorial Hall* .

Bucklebury walk and tea – mid-June.

French evening – Saturday in November 2014 (at Woody's) *Bucklebury Farm Park*.

Supporting the Bucklebury Beerfest – 4 October 2014.

Christmas Tree Festival – 6 December 2014 in the Victory Room.

Lighting Up Bucklebury – St Mary's Carol Service evening in December.

Burns Night January 2015 Memorial Hall.

### **Prince George Commemorative Mugs – Order now, almost sold out!**

With over 700 mugs sold already, there isn't much time left to purchase your Emma Bridgewater Prince George mugs, commissioned especially for Bucklebury. The final batch is expected to arrive at the end of February, wrapping up the limited production of only 1,000 mugs in total.

Bucklebury Parish residents benefit from a reduced price of only £15, and postage can be saved by collecting your mug. The pick-up location will be All Saints' Church in Upper Bucklebury, and all who have ordered mugs will be sent confirmation of the dates and times for collection. Non-residents can also purchase mugs at a cost of £20 each.

If you'd like to order mugs, simply collect an order form at Peach's stores, or print one from the Bucklebury Parish website. Payment can be via Paypal or cheque – all of the details are included on the order form.

For queries, contact the BCE team at 01635 873911, or via email at: [Buckleburyevents@gmail.com](mailto:Buckleburyevents@gmail.com).

On behalf of the Bucklebury Events Team, we would like to thank every body who came along and supported the village activities, both to enjoy and those who volunteered. We couldn't have done it without you.

We have an active calendar ahead and hope to see you all again in the coming months.

Adrian Bend—Chairman, Bucklebury Community Events.

### **Bucklebury Friendship Circle**

I thought that I would write to you all, about our annual Coffee Morning, a little earlier this year. It will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am and we look forward to welcoming our supporters and friends, old and new, at Briff Farm (off Briff Lane), Upper Bucklebury. We will, as previously, be holding it in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Last year, on a lovely warm and sunny day, we were delighted to raise an all-time record amount - £1285.47! Thank you all for your very generous and enthusiastic support.

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

We do hope that as many of you as possible will come (please bring friends and neighbours) and enjoy the house and garden. This is now a well-established and very enjoyable annual event, all in aid of a very worthy cause.

Judy Fleming – 01635 863814

### **St. Martins Club**

Are you 55 or over and looking for something to do, then why not join the St Martins Club in Upper Bucklebury.

We are a very friendly group who get together on the first Tuesday of every month, either in the Memorial Hall in Upper Bucklebury during the Winter months of October through to March when we have guest speakers or entertainment, finishing with afternoon tea, and then we have coach outings during April through to September. These outings leave from Bucklebury at 9am either from Peach's Stores or The Blade Bone, returning around 7pm. Both pick-up points have ample free parking facilities. We have a wide variety of destinations, all at very reasonable prices.

Our chosen outings for this year are:-

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| April | Oakham Treasures, Bristol                           |
| May   | The Blossom Trail, Evesham                          |
| June  | Ryde, Isle of Wight                                 |
| July  | Severn Valley Railway                               |
| Aug   | Weymouth  |
| Sept  | National Memorial Arboretum or National Bass Museum |

Cost: Members £15      Non Members £17

So, why not come along and see if you would like to join us. For more information contact me Pat Bodsworth on 01635 864310. I look forward to receiving your call.

Pat Bodsworth.

### **Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS)**

The Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS) will be performing their next production, the pantomime "Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates" on 20 – 22 February at Kennet School in Thatcham. Performances are at 7:30pm with a matinee at 2:30pm on 21 and 22 February. Tickets are £8 (£7 concessions) and can be purchased on-line at [www.kats.org.uk](http://www.kats.org.uk) or from the Family Bookshop in Thatcham.

The pantomime follows Robinson Crusoe as he sets sail on his latest adventure while his mother Celia joins him in search of duty free. The ship's crew includes the hapless Captain Codpiece, who has yet to navigate a ship out of dock without it hitting the harbour wall and sinking and Dr Defoe who masquerades as a botanist searching for the Man-eating Giant Stinkwort but is really a secret agent on a mission to capture the infamous treasure-seeking pirate Blackbeard! Along the way they meet villains Swash and Buckle who secretly work for Blackbeard, Man Friday, a vegetarian cannibal, and a host of Pirates and Cannibals.

KATS is a theatre group located in Thatcham, West Berkshire. They produce two or three main shows a year and an assortment of smaller productions at venues in and around Thatcham.

## Mah-jong

Mah Jong was invented by the Chinese hundreds of years ago, and has been played throughout China down the centuries. The Western game, which we play, varies from the old Chinese game but the principles are the same. It is played with 144 pieces, known as Tiles. There are three 'suits', characters, Circles and Bamboos. Plus the Honour Tiles, Red, Green & White Dragons and North, South, East & West Winds.

If you think that this may interest you then please come along and join in. We are a mixed ability group – some of us have been playing for some time and others have only just started playing. We are happy to show people how to play and it is a very enjoyable way to spend an afternoon (especially in the winter!)

We meet in the Oak Room at Bucklebury Memorial Hall – 2.00 – 4.30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month. There is a small charge to cover the cost of the hire of the Oak Room and the tea and biscuits.

Helen Relf—01635 867619 [helenrelf@relfsociety.org](mailto:helenrelf@relfsociety.org)

## Macmillan

More than one in three of us will get cancer. For most of us it will be the toughest fight we ever face and the feeling of isolation and loneliness that so many people experience make it even harder.

But people do not have to go through it alone. The Macmillan team is there every step of the way, from the nurses and therapists helping people through their treatment to the campaigners improving cancer care.

Every day eight people in Berkshire will be told that they have cancer. Macmillan has spent more than £800,000 in 2013 on local projects and services to support people in Berkshire. This is in addition to the national services that anyone can access anywhere in the country.

We have 74 Macmillan professionals working in clinical environments and the community in Berkshire. These include dieticians, lead cancer nurses, individual cancer specialists, community outreach and palliative care nurses, benefit advisors and information specialists.

Macmillan grants supported over 200 people living with cancer in Berkshire in 2012 totalling £55,000.

We now have an Elderly Care Service in West Berkshire supporting elderly people first diagnosed with cancer, £420,000 has been committed to this service. A one to one for the over 70's suffering with cancer and on their own.

Macmillan continues with its aim of improving the quality of life for all those living with cancer. If you, or someone you know is living with cancer, call free on 0808 808 00 00 or visit [www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk) either for help or information.

Macmillan touches every aspect of the lives of people with cancer. Macmillan is 98% funded by voluntary donations - without you our work would not be possible, and with your continued

commitment, we know we'll go on to achieve even greater things. Thank you for that support and the difference you are making.

Once again we held a very successful Christmas Cancer Concert together with Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust. A wonderful choir and great speakers filled St. Nicolas church Newbury. Thank you to all who supported us especially the flower arrangers.

Erica Tipton

Chairman Macmillan Cancer Support Newbury Committee

## Alzheimer's Society

### New service for people with dementia launching in West

#### Berkshire and Wokingham

An exciting new service which enables people with dementia to continue to do the things they love is being launched by the Alzheimer's Society in West Berkshire and Wokingham. The Alzheimer's Society is aiming to match 30 volunteer befrienders with people with dementia to help them live well with their condition.

85 per cent of people with dementia say that they struggle with isolation, loneliness and depression. Befrienders provide companionship and are matched with people depending on their personality and common interests. People with dementia are able to continue to do things they love from shopping, visiting the gardening centre or playing golf to simply just having a chat over a cup of tea.

Linda Barnes, Operations Manager for the Alzheimer's Society in Reading said:

'Life doesn't stop when a person is diagnosed with dementia. People often still want to do the things they enjoyed doing before, such as a game of golf or a walk in the countryside, but they might need some extra support. This service offers the perfect opportunity for volunteers to help people with dementia to continue to feel a part of their community and to do the things they enjoy. It can be a very rewarding experience for both the volunteer and the person with dementia.

'There are 2183 people with a diagnosis of dementia living in West Berkshire Primary Care Trust Area and this will rise to 6753 in 2021. With the right support people can live well with the condition for a number of years.'

The Alzheimer's Society is currently recruiting volunteer befrienders to help meet the needs of people living with dementia in West Berkshire and Wokingham. To find out more about volunteering or accessing the befriending service please contact Louise Rawlins at the Reading Office on 0118 959 6482.

As well as the befriending service the Alzheimer's Society in West Berkshire and Wokingham has a number of services including Singing for the Brain, Dementia Cafes organised by volunteers and a team of Dementia Support Workers. To find out more visit [www.alzheimers.org.uk/localinformation](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/localinformation) or contact 0118 959 6482.

# Chapel Row Patient Participation Group & Surgery Newsletter

## Surgery Details

Reception 0118 971 3252  
Repeat Prescriptions – 0118 971 2826  
Dispensary Enquiries – 0118 971 3803  
Website [www.crsurgery.co.uk](http://www.crsurgery.co.uk)

## **Please remember to cancel any unwanted appointments**

When the surgery is closed, Emergency Treatment can be obtained from WESTCALL on (01189) 78 78 11 Or ring 111 for Advice.

## Patient Participation Group

The Patient Participation Group was formed in 2000 and is composed of a group of volunteers seeking to enhance the service provided by the practice. It has been suggested that the PPG together with the Surgery produce a regular newsletter to provide local and national health updates.

The practice is now registered with the Care Quality Commission to provide General Medical Services to the local practice population. All healthcare providers are now governed by a single set of standards. The CQC will inspect all G.P. practices once every two years.

We would welcome your input regarding information you would like to see in the newsletter. would you like health related events and talks? Asthma, Diabetes, Blood pressure, long term conditions. Please contact Erica Tipton – [erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk)

Please look at the new website - [www.crsurgery.co.uk](http://www.crsurgery.co.uk)

It's well worth a visit!!

## NHS CHOICES

Always available NHSCHOICES - Go online to find latest health news. Conditions and treatments, Symptom checkers – Medicine information and Online Clinics.

## Surgery News

Dr David Edwards-Moss will be leaving the surgery at the end of January.

We are all very sad that he is leaving but wish him well as he begins a new and exciting venture working for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). Some patients may wish to give him a gift – he has specifically requested that any gift comes in the form of a donation to his forthcoming voluntary work. The easiest way to do this is via the website: “JUST GIVING” in the name of Dr David Edwards Moss.

## Sports

### Tennis

Rain has probably had the upper hand over the last few weeks, but no doubt it will change soon and we can look forward to a new season of tennis. Here's some of the highlights!

#### Newbury District Winter League

We are running 3 Mixed teams and 2 Men's and 1 Ladies teams this winter; more than ever before! So we are always in need of players! There are opportunities to join in. Do let the Club Committee know if you are interested in playing.

#### New Coach

We have recently recruited a new coach following the ending of our arrangement with Bradfield College Tennis Development Centre. Damian Lane, who has had a number of years as a tennis coach at Bradfield Tennis College, is now taking over. He will start our Junior programme from March coaching Bucklebury Primary School and our Junior players. Adult coaching will be available, either by direct contact with the coach, or under a group package through the Club; but this has still to be set up.

#### Junior Coaching

As mentioned above, the Junior coaching programme will be:

**8 – 10 year olds Monday 3.30 – 4.30 pm.**  
**11 – 13 year olds Monday 4.30 – 5.30 pm.**  
**Teens (13 – 16 year olds) Wednesdays 5 – 6 pm.**

The courses will last from March to October during school term time, giving participants approximately 16 sessions. The programmes is open to all children under 16, whether they are members of the Club or not. The cost will be £4 per session for Members an £5 for non members. General enquires on this programme should be directed to Mike James. And help is required! We are in need of a volunteer to help coordinate the participants and the supervision of the Junior sessions. Anyone who may be interested in helping should get in touch with any of the Club Committee.

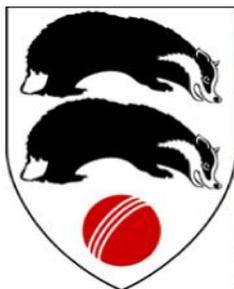
#### Court Floodlighting

We have now submitted our application for planning permission to install floodlighting for both our courts. We have had interest from several contractors and firm quotes to establish the cost. We still have the task of funding the project. While the Club has already accumulated over 50% of the costs from their own resources, there is still a significant balance to find; we are looking for donations from individuals and donor organisations. The project is explained on the website [www.findmeagrants.org](http://www.findmeagrants.org) .with full details of opportunities to donate.

#### Club Membership

If you would like to join the Club, or if any of the above is of interest please contact: Mike James (01189712285) on [m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk) or go to our website [www.buckleburytennisclub.com](http://www.buckleburytennisclub.com)

## Cricket



2013 was another fun year for Bucklebury Cricket Club. The Sunday side finished the season having played 15 games, won 9, drawn 0, lost 5 and tied 1. Our tied result against East Garston was possibly our first ever tied game

The club also played as a Wednesday evening side, under the name of the Bucklebury Badgers in the Downs League and won every game.

There were 47 people who played for the Sunday side at some point in the season. We welcomed several new recruits (most notably: Jeremy Powell, Chris Jones, Neil Snyman, Angus McPhail, Alistair Pringle, Alfie Gibbs, Joshua Scurr).

The match between the Chairman's XI and the Captain's XI was again a most enjoyable occasion, watched by many of the Club's generous supporters and followed by a BBQ. The match saw the Chairman's XI beat the Captain's XI in the final over (again). Thanks to the West Berkshire Brewery for their kind donation of Good Old Boy.

We continued to play at the cricket ground in Yattendon. Particular thanks goes to all those that were involved in the pitch mowing rota without whom we wouldn't have had a pitch to play on.

On the pitch, the most noticeable team performances were:

Beating Cold Ash by 16 runs (another close game. Last year it was by just 5 runs)

The tie against East Garston

Beating Falkland 2<sup>nd</sup> XI on their main pitch, by 174 runs

Beating the Deadbats by 78 runs

Beating Speen by 105 runs

Beating the Butterflies by just 2 wickets

Beating Woodlands by 200 runs (a record perhaps)

Beating Peasemore by 56 runs, when we had only 8 players.

We also note the departure during the season of our club stalwarts Owen Warne and Ben Hunt to far away climes. We hope to see them donning their Badger caps again.

We held our annual prize giving in early January at the Blade Bone. The cup winners were: Will Wright (Batting), James Theunissen (Bowling), Bob Norris (the Captain's Cup), Will Wright (the Young Player Award) and Will Wright (the Champagne Moment). Will's 170 not out against Falkland was a club record and many thanks to our former captain Brian Ward for presenting the Champagne Moment cup.

If you are interested in playing cricket, please come and have a go.

Before the season starts, come and join us for nets, even if you haven't played for a while. Please see our website for dates and times.

For more information contact:

- Piers Allison on 0118 971 2596
- <http://bucklebury.play-cricket.com>
- Google "Bucklebury CC"
- Follows us on Twitter @BuckleburyCC

## Badminton

Why not make it your new year's resolution to try out your local badminton club? You will find a fun and friendly atmosphere where you can play at a competitive level if you want to. We encourage players of all ages\* and abilities, including complete beginners. We can supply a racket for the first few nights so all you need is a pair of trainers and some comfy clothes to play in. Just turn up on a Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. at Elstree School in Woolhampton. Please see below for more details.

The club members enjoyed a meal at the Cottage Inn just before Christmas which was very well attended. There was also a fun tournament which was played with newspaper over the net so it was anyone's game! The results were very close but the dubious title was eventually won by Sarah Lewington and Andy Neville.

In the leagues, the men's A are top of their division by a clear margin. The mixed team has had some wins whilst the ladies and the men's B are yet to taste victory. The Blackford Cup team won through the first round but were then defeated by the narrowest of margins in a very close fought battle against Andover.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m. September to July

CONTACT: Margaret Neville 01635 873811

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

\*under 16s usually need to be accompanied

## Country Life

### Footpaths in the Parish

We are fortunate that we have many footpaths, bridleways and byways within the parish of Bucklebury and the Parish Council in conjunction with West Berkshire Council and with the aid of various voluntary bodies, does its best to make sure they are maintained satisfactorily.

Could we ask that any issues such as fallen trees, overhanging branches or other issues are reported to the parish council by either phoning or emailing the Clerk on 01635 863581 / [buckleburyparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:buckleburyparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk)

*These memories of Harry Copas were previously printed in the Parish Magazine in 1992, and I also have a handwritten copy which was in the WI archives. Hopefully they will be of interest to readers again. More will be published in future editions of The Oaks. Helen Relf: [helenrelf@relfsociety.org](mailto:helenrelf@relfsociety.org) 01635 867619*

## Memories of Old Bucklebury

### Harry Copas

#### Part Three

A .W..Sutton, of the famous seed firm, which used to be in Reading, had Bucklebury Place built and being a very generous and kind man he did a lot for the people of the parish. He formed a club whereby people could buy their seeds cheaply, he also had a nice clubroom built and supplied it with a couple of billiard tables and many other games, and it was called the 'fireside club'. As the family of Suttons were very religious, they spent some of their time abroad searching for new plants and combining it with missionary work.

Mr Sutton used to invite us children up to his place and show us his pictures on screen, shown by what they called a 'magic lantern' (no videos in those days). We used to be thrilled watching the many places he had visited. We used to walk up from The Slade with an adult in charge of us. Another good thing Mr Sutton used to do was invite a lot of poor boys from Reading to camp in the Hocket Field during the school summer holidays and they had the run of the common and the lovely clean fresh air – such a change from the town, and they all enjoyed it very much. Mr Sutton was a real Christian gentleman.

Sadly Suttons lost a lot of money in the Great War, so they say, and they sold the estate to Dr Carl Langer, an Austrian, who was head of the renowned business The Mono Nickel Company in South Wales, which later merged to form the giant I.C.I.

Just about the same time as Bucklebury Place was built, Mr George Palmer had Marlston House built, both before the turn of the century. Mr Palmer was head of the famous biscuit firm in Reading. He was another good Christian man and he also had a club room built on the Hermitage Road, which they called the Speedwell, where all his workers could come and convalesce after sickness, it's now turned into flats.

In my lifetime as a bricklayer I have, with several old craftsmen, helped build these large houses and one of the old brickies told me that when they were building Marlston House they placed every coin of the realm in circulation at that time under one of the large stones in the building.

At my age and having worked with these old men, I can go back over 100 years, at which time they told me the wage was 3d per hour.

In 1911, which was a hot dry summer, there was a disastrous fire on the common at Upper Bucklebury. I was taken up to see it, acres was burning and at that time it was covered in heather and gorse with quite a good layer of peat underneath so it spread

through the peat and sprung up further on and I was so amazed to see the wool of some sheep alight. It seemed to break up underneath them as they lay down. Another animal that helped spread it along was the rabbit – they were terrified so they stayed in the bushes till their fur was on fire then dashed to some more bushes and set them on fire. All the fields on the south side were all burnt as well, right up to Tomlin's Farm. It was so bad that the Lady of the Manor, Mrs Webley Parry, put a few men on night duty to see that it didn't get out of control, but still it kept going and, complaining to someone one day, they replied 'well if you stopped supplying the beer it might stop' and after she did that it burn out. You can draw your own conclusions about that.

In my younger days there were plenty of deliverymen. We had the choice of 3 or 4 bakers and grocers. There were also two different firms calling to pick up boots for repair or to supply new ones. We even had a man to deliver paraffin from Zin Zan – he also sold some other domestic goods. He kept a little shop in Zin Zan so he used to bring sweets to sell as well a hardboiled sweet called bulls eyes. I used to think 'what a mixture carried with paraffin'.

There wasn't much call for butchers as most cottagers fatted and killed their own pigs and salted the flitches. Quite a lot of the cottages had a bacon rack suspended on the ceiling and what with the pipe smoke I must have been smoked and salted! The slats in the bacon rack were shaped (*like triangles on piece of wood*) so the least amount of wood was in contact with the bacon. The man who used to come round killing the pigs was Butcher Green who always walked everywhere. I can picture him now with his knives and a big steel hung on his belt. As the rule was only to kill pigs when there was an R in the month in the summer months he used to go sheep-shearing. After we had killed the pig it had to have all the hair and bristles removed, which was done by rolling the pig over in a small fire, which was burning straw or bracken. But if we used bracken it had to be dry and cut standing as, if it had come out of the rick, it wouldn't burn fast enough. One good thing about having our own pigs killed was the lovely home cured lard - we used to reckon 1lb per score of pig, it was the real machoy (*sic*). My mother, who was Welsh, soon learned to make lovely lard cakes – they used to have sugar sprinkled over them. I haven't tasted anything like it since. No wonder they used to say Berkshire was famous for wheat and lard cakes. Quite a few children in my time used to go to school with a sandwich of lard sprinkled with sugar – it was very popular. We used to call the cake 'Lardy Clangers'.

Another old craft, which seems to be gone, was what they called stripping. I remember it as a boy. When they felled oak trees in the autumn and after all the boughs were cut off these, old chaps used to strip all the bark off the boughs and it would then go to the tannery in Stanford Dingley. It was on the left side of the village going from Bucklebury. Of course they all walked to wherever the trees were and they would come home carrying one of the smaller boughs on their shoulder, they called it a shoulder stick (Some stick). They had a shorter stick on the other shoulder and it went behind their neck and under the bigger bough so the weight was on both shoulders.

Quite a lot of us in my young days kept goats for milking as there were no milk deliveries in those days. We kept goats but people had to go to the nearest farm for their milk. Sometime in the 1920s when they started to produce milk bottles some of the

farmers started delivering milk, which was a good thing.

There were several undertakers in the parish, but one that stands out in my mind as the late W. Herman, an undertaker who claimed he had buried 9 undertakers in his lifetime, that seems to be a record.

## Bucklebury Heathland

The prospects for 2014 for the heather on the Commons look promising.

We weed wiped 8 acres on the lower common in August to kill silver birch. A party of 24 students from Reading worked hard clearing 6 acres of 4 foot scots pine on the lower common. If it ever stops raining a contractor will “swipe” 6 acres on the lower common. The volunteers have continued to chip away at cutting silver birch and treating the stumps with round up.

A problem we have not encountered before is a bad attack of “heather beetle”, the beetles eat the leaves of the plant turning it brown, looking dead! Attacks have been widespread in the south and occur from time to time, so we are hoping they do not appear next spring.

A contractor is starting work soon to reclear 3 acres of silver birch scrub on the Upper Common adjacent to the area cleared 5 years ago. At the same time they will “cut and clear” the remaining gorse which has taken over the northern end we cleared before.

We still have two work days this winter:

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Do come and join us 10.30am at Angels Corner

## West Berkshire Countryside Society

*Recently the Parish Council were discussing the donation to the West Berkshire Countryside Society and as a result asked Dick Greenaway (the Chairman) to write a short paper. The Parish Council thought you would be interested in the result....*



### West Berkshire Countryside Society: Advantages to Bucklebury Parish.

West Berkshire Countryside Society's (WBCS) constitution states:

*The Society exists to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of the West Berkshire Countryside by its residents and visitors and all other groups and businesses involved in its care and*

*management. The Society will also promote practical work to further these aims within West Berkshire.*

*The Society shall be a not-for-profit body.'*

Bucklebury Parish (BP), being one of the largest parishes in Berkshire and having one of the largest Rights of Way networks in England plus having very large areas of heathland and woodland freely accessible to the public – naturally and rightly derives a larger share of benefit than most other parishes from the Society's activities.

The activities of the Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group (BHCG) - part of WBCS - have recovered a large area of Bucklebury Common from dense self-sown birch and Scots pine. The Common is one of the largest areas of Lowland Heath in southern England and as such is a nationally important area as well as being a very valuable source of open air recreation to parishioners and the general public. BHCG's work keeps the scrub at bay and as a result the Common is rich in heathland plants, birds and animals – such as woodlarks, nightjars, glow-worms, reptiles, heather, cross-leaved heath and many others. There were seven working parties during 2013 – each of about 6 hours and staffed by about 15 volunteers amounting to over 600 hours of hard work. Similar working parties have cleared archaeological features to make them visible to walkers.

Bucklebury Parish has a very extensive Rights of Way network. Technically the care of these falls to the Highways Department of West Berkshire Council. Severe reduction in staffing has meant that many paths have been kept open by WBCS Conservation Volunteers and kindred groups such as the Ramblers. This is going to be even more necessary in the future.

To introduce the area to its parishioners guided walks have been lead by local experts. To encourage walkers to repeat the walks and to explore by themselves, walk leaflets have been written and printed and freely distributed by WBCS walk leaders.

The Parish Council has on several occasions recently asked WBCS for technical advice on matters to do with managing the Hockett Field and other land owned by the parish. This has been freely given and has resulted in WBCS Conservation Volunteer working parties of up to 14 people working on the hedges and other features on five occasions. This amounts to over 400 hours of hard voluntary work.

Ponds are a nationally declining habitat. WBCS Conservation Teams will be working on a number of these during the coming year.

The River Pang flows along the northern edge of the parish. It is a chalk stream and therefore one of only about 200 in the world. Chalk streams are fed by springs from the groundwater rather than by run-off from the surface. As a result their water is clean, filtered and chemically rich supporting a wide range of plants, fish and animals. England has 85% of the world's chalk streams and therefore has a duty of care to look after this rare habitat. WBCS is supporting West Berkshire Farming & Countryside Project that has recently launched a major campaign to improve the condition of the river. We will be supporting the project both financially and with the work of our Conservation Volunteer teams.

Barn Owls are a feature of Bucklebury's night skies. For many years Barn Owl Conservation teams have been erecting and monitoring barn owl nest boxes all over West Berkshire – not only in Bucklebury Parish. In 2012 this resulted in 72 successfully reared young owls. The weather during 2013 was so bad that not a single chick survived. The teams will be working hard during 2014 to recover this loss. Each nest box costs about £70.

WBCS has also been able to help Bucklebury landowners with technical advice on environmental matters and with woodland archaeology thereby helping them to manage their land in a more environmentally sensitive manner.

WBCS derives its income from the membership fees of its members, from sales of publications and from donations from parish councils and landowners who support our ideals and who have benefited from our work. We have no permanent paid staff and no premises. All our officers are volunteers working from their own homes.

Our financial resources are spent on providing professional training for our volunteers and on providing them with tools and other equipment and with specialist items such as barn owl nest boxes. Insurance is another major expense. With larger teams and a wider range of activities this expense can only grow.

Our 'motto' is 'We care for your countryside'. This we do to the utmost of our ability because it is our countryside too and we love and value it as much as we hope you do. Bucklebury Parish Council's donation has always been larger than that of other smaller parishes reflecting the size of its population and the size of its need. We sincerely hope you will feel able to continue your donation.

Dick Greenaway MBE RD Chairman.

## Walk-Workhouse Green

Turn left from the Memorial Hall Car Park in Upper Bucklebury, cross the road and take the footpath on the right before The Cottage Inn. Cross the fields and at Byles Green bear right towards the road. Turn right onto the road and take the first footpath on the left. Follow this in almost a straight line (*it takes you behind the cemetery*) to a wide track – turn left and take the path beside the bungalow, which will be on your right.

This is known as Workhouse Green (*if anyone can give me more information on this area then I would be very grateful*) – turn right at Sadgrove Farm and take the next footpath on your left, over a bridge and across the fields. There is a footpath on your right – quite well hidden – as you reach the far side of the fields, take this path over another bridge and you will see footpath signs almost straight across the field.

Take the path, which leads though the trees (straight on) to a gate and then turn right up the hill, past Bucklebury Farm Park on your left. Turn left, keeping BFP on your left, at the cross paths and at the end bear right and then take the left hand path. (*Vanners barn used to stand at this junction prior to being burnt down*) Follow this path past The Coronation Oak on your left, straight over at the cross paths and then turn right at the T junction to get back to the main track. Turn left, past Osgood's Gully on your right and on to Angel's Corner. Keeping the fence on your right cross the car park and take the narrow road, 'quiet lane', past the cemetery, cross the next road and take the track on your left, which will lead you back to the main road and The Memorial Hall.

### *Bucklebury Parish Council*

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014

## **COMMON CLEARING**

Please come to help clear rubbish from

**Bucklebury Common.**

Plastic sacks, gloves and litterpickers  
will be provided.

SKIPS at the Memorial Hall  
and Chapel Row

Meet at the Memorial Hall from 2.00pm.

Free refreshments afterwards.

*"Keep Bucklebury Beautiful"*

# Parish Diary Dates

## February

|      |                            |                 |                                   |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3rd  | Mah-Jong                   | 2.00pm—4.30pm.  | The Oak Room                      |
| 4th  | St. Martin's Club          |                 | Bucklebury Memorial Hall          |
| 6th  | Bucklebury Walkers         | 10.00am         | The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury |
| 8th  | Bucklebury Heathland Group | 10.30am         | Meet at Angels Corner             |
| 17th | Mah-Jong                   | 2.00pm—4.30pm   | The Oak Room                      |
| 24th | Talk by PCSO Sarah Preston | 10.00am—11.45am | All Saints Church                 |

## March

|      |                              |               |                               |
|------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 3rd  | Mah-Jong                     | 2.00pm—4.30pm | The Oak Room                  |
| 4th  | St. Martin's Club            |               | Bucklebury Memorial Hall      |
| 6th  | Bucklebury Walkers           | 10.00am       | The Bladebone Inn, Chapel Row |
| 9th  | Bucklebury Heathland Group   | 10.30am       | Meet at Angels Corner         |
| 17th | Mah-jong                     | 2.00pm—4.30pm | The Oak Room                  |
| 29th | Common Clearing              | 2.00pm        | Bucklebury Memorial Hall      |
| 29th | Bucklebury Events Quiz Night |               | Bucklebury Memorial Hall      |

## April

|      |                              |                |  |
|------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1st  | St. Martin's Club – Trip     | 9.00am-7.00pm  | Oakham Treasure, Bristol                       |
| 3rd  | Bucklebury Walkers           | 10.00am        | Marlston (carpark opposite Brockhurst School). |
| 7th  | Mah-Jong                     | 2.00pm –4.30pm | The Oak Room                                   |
| 30th | Bucklebury Friendship Circle | 10.30am        | Briff Farm                                     |

## May

|      |                         |               |                            |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1st  | Bucklebury Walkers      | 10.00am       | The Pot Kiln, Frilsham     |
| 6th  | St Martin's Club — Trip | 9.00am—7.00pm | The Blossom Trail, Evesham |
| 19th | Mah-Jong                | 2.00pm—4.30pm | The Oak Room               |

## Contributions

Material to appear in The Oaks should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (e.g. MS Word), attached to an e-mail and sent to "lindy.clarke@live.co.uk". 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 of publication.

Wynne Frankum

Published in January, April and September

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

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