

# The Oaks



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## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

I shall begin with the good news that the parish precept will be unchanged this year. Looking back over the last year some things have been resolved. During the year tree trunks were laid along the banks of the River Pang near the little ford and this seems to have prevented the 4x4s driving into the river, eroding the banks and damaging the life on the bed of the river. We continue to monitor the situation and Sally Wallington of the West Berkshire Farming and Countryside Project has been a great support and supplier of expertise.

For the last two years we have hoped that the three meadows behind the Cottage Inn would be in our hands by 1<sup>st</sup> April. Most problems have been resolved but there is a boundary problem which we hope will be sorted in the near future. Hopefully by this April 1<sup>st</sup>-----! Before Christmas the West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS) work party spent two days planting hedges and clearing the scrub which was invading the first meadow. This was organised by parishioner Richard Hubbard. We are very grateful for their time and expertise.

The school traffic is still a concern to both BPC and many parents and we hope to have a constructive dialogue with the school in the near future.

The flooding of various roads has been monitored, WBC has been notified, problems identified and action either has been or will shortly be taken.

The valve in Cold Ash, which enables water to be fed to Upper Bucklebury and beyond when the pump at the bottom of the Hart's Hill fails, is now fully operational. Information has been gathered on how many people are affected by air in their water supply first thing in the morning. The pressure of the water supply was monitored on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November when the water supply came from Cold Ash rather than Hart's Hill and the information gathered will determine capital projects for this year.

Speed checks have been carried out in the parish following the serious accidents in late autumn. On the whole drivers are keeping

Parish Council Chairman  
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk  
Helen Pratt

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WBCS hard at work.

more or less to the speed limits.

Tim Banks continues to advise BPC on the Broadband facilities in the parish. We hope to have news later in the year on the approximate dates the new cabinets will be installed.

Common clearing this spring is on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Please come along, enjoy some fresh air, exercise and the usual delicious cakes afterwards.

The Annual Parish Assembly is on 15<sup>th</sup> May. We have been lucky enough to arrange for Chris Boulton, the Chief Executive of the Greenham Trust to speak this year. This should be of interest to many in the parish, particularly societies interested in possible grants. Please come along and bring yourselves up to date with what is happening.

We wish all the people who work so hard to make so many interesting things happen in Bucklebury, a very successful year.

**Wynne Frankum**  
**Chair Bucklebury Parish Council**

## Parish Council Matters Arising

### Bucklebury Cemetery



We had a very successful “Carols by Candlelight“ again this year. It was a mild evening and a record number of people came. Lindsey McNish again ran the programme and fascinated us with snippets of information about the carols. Dominic and Theo Powell delighted people with their playing as

they arrived and the school recorder group played well. Evan Pocock gave an excellent rendition of “Variations on a Little Drummer Boy” on his guitar and the Ward family kept us in tune on the key board. The Beeson family once again provided some lighting and the delicious mulled wine. People gave generously and after the expenses were paid BPC were able to send £170 to Two Saints, the hostel for the homeless in Newbury. I’d like to thank all the people who made this a successful and enjoyable occasion.

The new gates at the back of the cemetery have been installed by Graham Plank and look very smart. Inspecting them we

noticed that the 1970’s wall is in need of some work. The growth by it had to be removed before this can be carried out so there was a work party on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 10 am.

The Burial Board had a work party in the autumn when they removed some of the scrub growing between the new section of the cemetery and the woodland beyond. C. R. Landscapes, who look after the grounds, will remove the rest this year which will enhance the appearance of the cemetery, we hope.

**Wynne Frankum - Chairman, Burial Board.**

### Bucklebury School Parking

Bucklebury Parish Council is very concerned at the indiscriminate car parking by some parents when either dropping off or picking up children at Bucklebury School. This practice is very dangerous and the Parish Council is concerned that a child or some children will be seriously injured or even killed if a collision should occur.

In particular those parents who park in Blackland’s Road or close to the entrance of it at dropping off times are causing a problem as this effectively makes the road ‘one way’ there-by preventing the ‘kiss and drop’ system from working properly. The ‘kiss and drop’ system if used correctly allows the children to alight from a vehicle in the safety of the school premises and not on a public road where there is the danger of them being struck by a moving vehicle. Vehicles have been observed parking across the footpath forcing parents and children to actually walk in the roadway.

The dangerous practice of children crossing the road between parked vehicles is obvious. It is difficult for them to see if there are any approaching vehicles and just as important the children cannot be easily seen by an approaching driver until it is too late.

Much time has been spent by councillors in an effort to persuade parents to park safely, and the school has written to parents many times on this issue to no avail.

It has now been decided to make one last attempt to resolve this issue. We are going to ask the Friends of Bucklebury School (FoBS) to join in with the Parish Council to make one last effort to resolve this issue by persuasion and if this does not work we will request the Local Authority to make a legal order, complete with the official signs and yellow lines, to ban parking in Blackland’s Road at the necessary times.

There are alternative places to park locally: Bucklebury Memorial Hall, the Cottage Inn and All Saints Church.

Between 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May this year there will be a ‘Global Road Safety Week’ which aims to reduce casualties among children and young persons. Currently every six seconds someone is killed or maimed on our world’s roads. This is a powerful reason to try to make our roads safe.

More than 260.000 children and teenagers die from a road traffic injury each year on our world’s roads. That is around 718 children per day.

Let us start now. Each and every school parent can play a small part in this initiative to try to prevent a tragic incident from occurring right here on our own doorstep.

**Alan Dunkerton - Bucklebury Parish Councillor**

## Neighbourhood Watch



Neighbourhood Watch has proved to be an effective method of reducing crimes such as theft from motor vehicles, burglaries and criminal damage. Members are less likely to be a victim of crime if they and their neighbours are made aware of problems by receiving up to date information on local incidents and crime prevention tips from Neighbourhood Watch and the Police.

Whilst Bucklebury has a good coverage of NHW schemes there are some areas that are not covered, particularly in various hamlets and the Hatch Lane area.

All it requires to set up a scheme is for someone to volunteer to act as the Co-ordinator in their immediate area to receive and distribute information to their neighbours. It does not involve huge amounts of paperwork and benefits everyone in the community. Some insurance companies may also offer discount on household insurance.

Alternatively, if you live in a rural area and there are not many houses nearby, or you do not wish to join a formal Watch scheme, you may wish to consider joining our Thames Valley

Alert scheme. Details can be found at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator please contact the Watch Office on 01635 264718 or e-mail [deborah.morton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:deborah.morton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Bucklebury Neighbourhood Watch Groups

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
Blackland's Rd, Berry's Road and Woodside Close	<i>Mrs S Dorling</i>	01635 864256
Hatch Close	<i>C Fleming</i>	0118 971 2315
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 co-ordinator, please contact the Clerk for more information.

## 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.

## Planning

In the last edition of The Oaks, we included a list of the planning applications which had been considered by your Parish Councillors or had been determined by WBC since the previous edition. A number of positive comments were received, so here is a list of applications considered by Bucklebury Parish Council or determined by WBC since the September edition of The Oaks.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
14/02165/HOUSE	<b><u>47 Berrys Road.</u></b> Replace flat roof dormer window with a hipped roof.	No Objection	Approved
14/02308/HOUSE	<b><u>Hill Crest, Tylers Lane.</u></b> Replacement roof to provide the additional bedrooms and bathroom, new front entrance with balcony over, replacement rear extension to enlarge kitchen and lounge. Amendment: Changes to the roof and windows.	Object to original application.  No objection to amendment	Amendment approved.
14/02326/HOUSE	<b><u>Juniper Cottage, The Slade.</u></b> Rear conservatory.	No Objection	Approved
14/02303/HOUSE	<b><u>Kings Copse Bungalow, Southend.</u></b> Construction of a timber framed building to house biomass boilers serving both King's Copse and King's Copse Cottage.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02397/HOUSE	<b><u>Osgoods Gully.</u></b> Single storey extension with balcony, alterations to dormer window.	No Objection	Approved
14/02370/HOUSE	<b><u>Kennel Barn, The Slade.</u></b> Installation of a domestic in-ground swimming pool and adjacent shed.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02382/HOUSE	<b><u>12 Roundfield.</u></b> To install a flue for the use of a biomass boiler to provide central heating and hot water for the house using a renewable energy source.	No Objection	Approved
14/02339/FUL	<b><u>Clover Cottage, Westrop Green (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. Erection of replacement dwelling with revised residential curtilage.	Object	Approved
14/02553/HOUSE	<b><u>Holly Cottage, Kiff Green (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Two storey side and rear additions with altered vehicular access.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02774/HOUSE	<b><u>Aynho, Long Grove.</u></b> Erection of double storey rear extension.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02577/FUL	<b><u>The Highlands, Upper Bucklebury.</u></b> Change of use of small area of land to domestic curtilage, and erection of replacement outbuilding.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02733/HOUSE	<b><u>Waven, Bucklebury.</u></b> Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling, together with new garage building. Amendment: Resiting of garage, air source heat pump & solar panels.	Object to original application.  No objection to amendment	Amendment approved.
14/02987/HOUSE	<b><u>Camplins Cottage, Turners Green.</u></b> Two storey side extension comprising study at ground floor and en-suite above.	No Objection	Refused

14/02936/HOUSE	<b>Kiln House, Broad Lane.</b> Proposed extension – revised design to address concerns raised in previous application 14/00718/HOUSE.	No Objection	Approved.
14/03038/HOUSE	<b>3 Broad Lane.</b> First floor rear bedroom extension over existing flat roof. First floor side dormer extension to create en-suite bathroom. Internal alteration to form kitchen and utility room plus window and door alterations to elevations.	No Objection	Approved.
14/02592/FUL	<b>Appletrees, Chapel Row.</b> Proposed extension and internal alterations to existing care home.	No Objection	Withdrawn.
14/03228/HOUSE	<b>Pentwyn, Tylers Lane.</b> Single storey extension to rear.	No Objection	Approved
14/02955/AGRIC	<b>Track Adjacent to Holly Farmhouse, The Slade.</b> Track: Length 859.0m Width 3.4m		Full Application Required
14/03257/FULD	<b>Bucklebury Farm Park.</b> Siting of a log cabin to provide on-site staff accommodation at Bucklebury Farm Park.	Object	Pending Decision

## Bucklebury Emergency Plan

A small committee of the Parish Council is gradually bringing together a plan to be used if there is an emergency in the parish, for example, floods, fires, major accident, terrorist threat, epidemic, water shortage. This is required by our local authority. The Parish Clerk will keep hard copies if anyone should wish to see it when completed.

We are still collating information about local people with skills or equipment, and would welcome volunteers willing to be included who are trained in first aid such as first responders or nurses, chain saw owners, 4x4 owners and tractor drivers. Please contact Helen Pratt if you are willing to be named in a contact list to be activated in a time of emergency.

**Lindy Clarke - Bucklebury Parish Councillor**

## Parish Website

BPC maintains the 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 Parish Council*

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**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”*

## Superfast Broadband - Update

Phase 1 of the project being run by West Berkshire Council to introduce improved broadband services is nearing completion and plans to extend the coverage of superfast broadband (phase 2) will start during the summer of 2015.

The goal of phase 1 is to provide basic broadband ( 2Mbps) to all properties, and for phase 2 it is to further extend superfast broadband as far as possible with available funding.

We would encourage anyone who hasn't already done so to register at <http://www.superfastberkshire.org.uk>. This will provide an indication to prospective suppliers (and the project team) of the potential demand in communities such as Bucklebury.

**Tim Banks - Bucklebury Parish Councillor**

## 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).

## West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agents



Do you know someone who could use our help?

Carolyn is your Village Agent in Bucklebury and is supported by our team in surrounding areas. Do you know someone who is over 50 and/or socially isolated? Many of us can be very independent and then

almost overnight, need a little help but do not know what help is available. Village Agents can put residents in touch with the services that already exist, to allow them to enjoy the community they live in and to be able to stay in their own homes for longer.

**Carolyn can be contacted on 07547206030**

Alternatively contact our coordinator Gill on 01635 49004 or 07775366812

## Visitor Information Centre

Do you know where your local Visitor Information Centre is? Have you ever visited it? Do you have any idea about the range of services on offer?

About this time last year the Visitor Information Centre (VIC), now based in the Town Hall, Market Place, was under threat of closure. Twelve months on and we have had a 'stay of execution' and we are absolutely thriving but we still need your support!

There has been a VIC in Newbury for many years and it has historically been housed in the West Berkshire Museum building, however when the Museum was granted Heritage Lottery funding in 2012 for a complete refurbishment programme, we had to find a new home. After many meetings we moved into the old CCTV room in the Town Hall in February 2013. This has proved to be the absolute perfect place for us and we have expanded our range of services even further!

Although we are based in Newbury, we are a West Berkshire VIC and cover the whole district. We promote local businesses, events, accommodation and attractions through the Visit Newbury brochure and [www.visitnewbury.org.uk](http://www.visitnewbury.org.uk) and our aim is to get people to come and visit, but most importantly get them to stay longer, so that they contribute to the local economy.

Everyone who visits gets a free town centre map and self guided walk so they can find out more about Newbury and the surrounding area and we recommend places to eat, stay and things to do. Over 60% of our customers are local West Berkshire residents and to give you an idea of the number of customers we help every year, you could fill the O2 arena and more!



Inside the Visitor Information Centre.

We are a National Express agent, Barnes Coaches booking agent, we have lockers for hire and have recently added a fleet of hybrid bikes for hire too – I bet you didn't know we did that! Other services include, tickets to local events, faxing, photocopying and laminating, we sell local books, maps, souvenirs, postcards, stamps, locally made jams, preserves, chutneys and honey as well as beautiful locally made soaps and jewellery. We stock hundreds of leaflets and local brochures as well as transport timetables.

If you don't believe we can possibly offer all of this... then come in and see for yourself! We are open from Monday – Saturday 10am-4pm Oct to Mar and 10am – 5pm Apr - Sept. Tel 01635 30267 or email [tourism@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@westberks.gov.uk) if you'd like to sign up to our newsletter.

## West Berks District Councillors

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

Graham Pask Tel: 01635 864023

Email: [gpask@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:gpask@westberks.gov.uk)

Quentin Webb Tel: 01635 201435

Email: [qwebb@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:qwebb@westberks.gov.uk)

## WBC Councillors' Report

Since our last report in the September edition of The Oaks there have been a a number of road traffic accidents (eight by my count), within and around the Parish which have caused considerable concern. These took place in October and November before we encountered this wintry weather but there seemed to be no specific cause like poor weather or road conditions.

There were two accidents on The Avenue, one of which involved a young man who had only recently passed his driving test and three on Harts Hill one of which resulted in the road being closed for two days to allow the road surface to be replaced following the cars catching fire. Perhaps the most potentially serious accident was a driver losing control opposite Berry's Road and ending up wrapped around a phone pole upside-down at around 4.20pm. Fortunately there were no pedestrians walking past at the time!

All but two of these accidents happened where there is an

appropriate 30 or 40mph speed limit but, without wishing to apportion blame, I would expect excessive speed to be the main contributory factor! I was so concerned that I contacted the Police Area Commander to ask for advice and speed enforcement and am pleased to report, following speed monitoring in a number of locations, that the Police will prioritize speed enforcement in the Parish.

Just to give some examples, the highest speed recorded in Broad Lane was 56mph and around 20% of drivers exceeded 40mph over a five day period. In Bucklebury Village where there is a perception of excessive speed only a small handful of cars were measured exceeding 30mph.

We review speed limits twice a year at the Council in conjunction with the Police who have to agree our recommendations as they are the enforcement authority but reduced speed limits, according to the legislation, are not the answer to specific issues and most of the accidents occurred on stretches of road covered by limits already.

We are also pleased to report the latest crime figures which continue to show further reductions in burglary. Over the Christmas period there were none reported in the District. There have been a number of relatively minor issues of attempted break-ins of sheds etc. and a number of unlocked cars were searched over a recent weekend but the increase in Neighbourhood Watch schemes recently appears to have had a good effect. We all need to keep vigilant (and lock our cars!!) and I would urge you to sign up to the excellent Thames Valley Alert, a service run by the Police which sends e-mails to all subscribers notifying us all of local issues.

As always please contact us with any concerns or problems.

**Graham Pask & Quentin Webb - District Councillors**

## 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.

## Family

### Bucklebury Primary School



A Happy New Year from all of us at Bucklebury School. The Autumn term seemed to fly by with the Harvest Festival, Christmas Bazaar and nativity play.

The Friends of Bucklebury School (FoBS) organised another successful Christmas Bazaar raising a fabulous £2,200. The school was crammed with the usual tombolas, cake stall, raffle and games as well as the new addition of a present buying and wrapping room for the children to get their parents presents.

This year the Infants performed the nativity, "Whoops-a-daisy Angel" which was received by all with joy. All of the infants were involved and did an excellent job, remembering all of their lines and all the many songs they had to perform. There are often a few tears to be shed when such young children perform so brilliantly and show such bravery and confidence.

We combined our delicious Christmas lunch this year with the wearing of festive jumpers so that the children could raise money for our school charity, The Gunjar Community, a small village in Gambia that we have been supporting for a number of years.

Looking forward to the Spring term we have volunteer parents painting a classroom, a music evening where the children get to show case their musical talent, a school disco for the children, FoBS beetle drive for all the family and Easter fun including an egg hunt before we break up for Easter on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Regretfully Mrs Rowe, our head teacher of 9 years, has decided to take early retirement and will be leaving us at the end of the Summer term. Her commitment and dedication to ensuring that every child has the best possible school life has been unwavering and the sustained results academically have put the school in a very strong position for the future. Work is now underway to find a successor that will continue to build on this success and on the strong ethos of the school.

**Bucklebury School Governors**

### West Berkshire Ballet School



I am sure I am not being very original when I say that I can't believe Christmas has been and gone and here we are in 2015!

At the end of our term we were rewarded with a visit from Father Christmas and our tiniest dancers were able to show him how much they had learnt before he delved into his sack for a small surprise.

31 students took their ballet exams in early December and received an early Christmas present when the results appeared two weeks later – we had 100% success rate with one third receiving Distinction – many congratulations to you all!

Our winter term outing was to Oxford to see the English National Ballet's production of Coppelia – we shall follow this up, very soon, with another Professional Workshop to learn some of the dances from this ballet.

So now we can put all our energy into preparing for our major ballet production in the summer half-term, when we shall present our own version of The Sleeping Beauty at Arlington Arts on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> May. Although we try to use much of the original Petipa choreography and, of course, Tchaikovsky's wonderful score, we know that our dancers will put their own stamp on the story.

We shall have a cast of 71 with ages ranging from 6 years to adult and it will, once again, be an opportunity for many of our former dancers to return to help us backstage and reminisce about their experiences in past WBBS productions. Incidentally, Holly & Jane did manage to make 24 tutus in time for the younger girls to try on before the end of term and what's more – they looked beautiful!

Claire has a thriving beginners tap and modern class in the Oak Room on Thursdays from 4-5pm for 6 years and upwards and she has just announced that there is room for one or two more – it's certainly lots of fun as the girls will tell you.

WBBS wishes all their students, families and friends a wonderful dancing 2015.

**Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden, Holly Unnuk, Lucie Dale & Gemma Cole**  
wbbs.org and facebook



## 1st Bucklebury Brownies



1st Bucklebury Brownies were very busy towards the end of 2014! Our highlights included bag-packing at Tesco's to raise funds, a climbing wall evening and participating in the St. Mary's Remembrance Sunday service. As part of our Festive activities we entered the Bucklebury Christmas Tree Competition with all of our decorations hand-made by the Brownies. Unfortunately we did not win the competition. On the last evening of term we hosted our first ever Carol Concert which parents and other family members attended and all agreed was a lovely occasion. We are looking forward to lots more exciting activities this term!

NB. 1st Bucklebury Brownies have now moved to St. Finian's Primary School along The Ridge – Friday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Please contact Michelle Harrison on 07557 747646 for further information.

## 1st Bucklebury Guides



It's been a while since we submitted an article for the Oaks, and my, hasn't it been busy. A group of the Guides went away

to an international camp during the summer at Winsor Great Park and had a fantastic time with thousands of other Guides and Scouts from all around the globe. Some of our other girls attended a local camp at Cold Ash during the summer and had an equally good time, just on a smaller scale.

In September we were joined by more new Guides for the new term and also said goodbye to a few more who moved up to our Ranger unit. We are also proud to announce that 4 of our girls were awarded their Baden Powell award (the highest achievement a Guide can be given) so very well done to those girls.

September also marked our 5<sup>th</sup> year since re-opening and November also saw us celebrate our Unit's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. We celebrated in style with a nice girly evening of a film, games and pizza!! The girls all designed a badge to celebrate this event which we are getting made for all past and present Guides to have. We have also decided to change our Necker colour to mark this milestone and are looking forward to our new ones being delivered soon.

November is also a time where we remember those who have fallen during various conflicts, and with the centenary of WW1, we spent time reflecting upon the meaning of Remembrance Day and quite a number of Bucklebury Brownies, Guides and Rangers attended the service in the village.

Also during last term, we took a spooky walk around Upper Bucklebury by torchlight, with of course some local ghost stories thrown in for good measure. The girls also took a trip to Cadbury World and completed their chocolate badge. During meetings we worked towards the craft and music zone badges which involved making lots of interesting things to take home and discussing types of music and how they make you feel. Patrol time was used for the girls to pursue their own interests with various Go For It badges being completed including those centred around space, movie making and of course chocolate.

So as you can see a lot has been happening, and this term will be just as busy, weather permitting!! If you are interested in joining us, please do get in touch. We always welcome local girls onto our waiting list, and are really interested in ladies who would like to join us in running the unit. Bucklebury is a very popular busy unit. Adult helpers may not get paid, but we certainly do have a lot of fun.

**Claire Powers (Unit Leader)**

[elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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 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!

We have had a fun packed couple of months with Bradfield YFC. We had a visit to Vicars Game, made pancakes, a 'Fake Training' evening with Thames Valley Police and we are looking forward to our stock judging practice evenings ready for the pre-show at the end of the month and then the YFC country fayre at the end of May! 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 pre-show on 19<sup>th</sup> April and our country fayre on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Come along to the country fayre. It is a fun day out for all!

So if you have some energy to spare, please contact Simon Fernandez 07876 493236 or Sarah Collings 07900457572 and they can tell you what we are up to!

## Organisations

### Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

So far, down here in the south of the country, we have experienced a mild and kind winter. There have been few frosts and no periods of intense cold so far, as I write this in January, we shall all expect to see savings in our heating bills, but are the bugs and pests also enjoying the warmth whilst preparing their campaign to thwart our efforts? Those on heavy clay soils will be finding it sticky going and still suffering the effects of last year's rains. Twelve months ago we were awash, in the middle of a period of exceptionally heavy rainfall. The Pang was running high and the ground saturated, let's hope we avoid a repetition of the Valentine Storm of 2014. A sleepless night I still remember.

The new bright green 2015 schedules should now all be distributed, and you can enjoy an evening in front of the fire planning your campaign to win some prizes at our shows. It is

also a good time to study the seed catalogues and perhaps lay down plans for re-planting a sad section of your garden. The winter is a good time for seeing the bones of your planting; also the weather has so far been very good for ripping out tired plants and preparing the ground for new planting in the spring.

Our new electronic communication system is still working well, and we had a huge turnout for our first meeting of the New Year, when Stuart Logan encouraged us with plenty of practical advice to turn our vegetable plots into all year production. We may be unable to match his supreme efforts, but I believe most of us left with optimism to grow more and better. The seed orders have been flowing in so we shall see if the results appear on the show bench!

Looking forward to the next few months we have some events to enjoy. The next meeting is, or was depending on when you are reading this, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. A local forensic scientist will enthral us with the secrets of plants which can solve mysteries. On 20<sup>th</sup> March, Chris Chadwell will return to the Memorial Hall, on this occasion describing his interesting experiences whilst plant collecting in Nepal. Thanks to the Horticultural Society, you will be transported to the Himalayas without leaving Bucklebury. Please note that our Spring Show moves to the **Tuesday** (7<sup>th</sup> April) immediately after the Bank Holiday. All meetings start at eight, although entries for the show should arrive from 7 pm.

During May we are arranging three outings. The first is an open evening at Cottismore Garden Centre, just north of Kingsclere, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 7pm. There will be a guided tour plus a chance to buy some bedding plants at very competitive prices. Then on the following Saturday (16<sup>th</sup> May) we have our annual free car trip to the RHS gardens at Wisley (departing All Saint's Church, Upper Bucklebury at 9.30am.). This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the best garden in the world at your leisure, and bring some friends too. Finally, we have our annual coach outing on 20<sup>th</sup> June, visiting West Dean Gardens in Sussex.

Don't forget to visit the nurseries and garden centres listed in our book, and if you feel you have the energy to help the Society achieve even better results in 2016, why not join our very small and intimate committee?

Details of all our activities are included in our 2015 schedule. New members are always welcome, contact John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy Gardening.

**Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)**

## St. Martin's Club

2014 was a very good year for the club. We had a lot of new members join and had good attendances at our hall meetings and on coach trips. We ended the year with our usual Christmas lunch when over 70 members went to The Old Mill at Aldermaston. We were greeted with mulled wine or a soft drink, followed by an excellent Christmas dinner and we were then entertained by our local Celtic Folk Group MoCairde-Inisheer.

In January we had our AGM and members chose the following coach outings for the summer.

- 7th April Kensington Palace
- 5th May Hamble River Cruise
- 2nd June Moreton in Marsh and Sudeley Castle
- 7th July Lyminster and Hilliers Arboretum
- 4th August Bournemouth
- 1st September Canterbury

These outings are very good value and are very popular, so why not join us. There are two pick-up points, Peach's Store and Blade Bone normally starting at 9am and arriving back in Bucklebury at approximately 7pm.

There is one more meeting in the Memorial Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> March before the summer programme of coach outings begins, when we have a talk entitled "The Growth of Popular Music in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century". This is at 2pm in the Hall, followed by afternoon tea.

Our tea and biscuits afternoons in the Oak Room are also proving to be very popular, the remaining two being on 20<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March between 2 and 4pm.

If you are interested in joining our Club then please phone me, Pat Bodsworth on 01635 864310.

## Bucklebury Events Committee

### Christmas Tree Festival Review

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Tree Festival was held in the Victory Room, Bucklebury Village on Saturday 6 December 2014. The fantastically decorated trees created by local business, community groups and clubs were displayed in the hall. This year the decoration theme was 'Colours' and visitors voted for the Funniest, Prettiest and Most Original trees. With festive food, Christmas carols, hand-made ornaments and beautiful foliage centrepieces available, it was a lovely way to start the Christmas season.

The Events team sends a special 'thanks' to Woody's for donating the mince pies, and to Father Christmas who took time out from the Bucklebury Farm Park to visit the children in

the Victory Room. A new gingerbread activity was introduced this year, where children could decorate tree-shaped biscuits with coloured icing and a variety of sparkles and chocolate pieces. Tim Culley from Bucklebury village won a beautiful hand-made chocolate log after guessing the weight of a Christmas parcel.

Congratulations to the well-deserved prize winners: Bucklebury Bookkeeping (Funniest tree), Tuesday Ladies Club (Prettiest tree) and Bucklebury Rangers (Most Original). Each year a different local charity is chosen to receive the proceeds from the Christmas Tree Festival and this year the Bucklebury Events team is pleased to donate £100 to West Berkshire's Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the tree competition and volunteered to help on the day.

### Bucklebury Community Events – 2015 Diary

- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015 - French evening at Woody's
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – Barn Dance at Manor Farm Barn in Bucklebury Village
- First weekend in December 2015 - Christmas Tree Festival

You can contact the Bucklebury Events team at: [buckleburyevents@gmail.com](mailto:buckleburyevents@gmail.com)

## Mah-jong

We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month (not Bank Holidays) for a couple of hours of fun and relaxation. We are a mixed group and welcome beginners. At the moment we don't score at the end of each game but do have a member who is proficient in this should you wish to do so. There is also a possibility that she will organise meetings on the other Mondays of the month in the future.

We play using the rules written by Max Robertson, whose book "The Game of Mah-Jong" has been accepted as the foremost authoritative guide to the rules and scoring of this fascinating game. It is a Penguin book, ISBN 978-0-14-300659-6, and would be available through bookshops or on line. The U3A in Thatcham also follow these rules so it would be easy for anyone to join their group. I also have photocopied sheets showing the basic hands from this book available to members.

I would like to thank Pat Barnard-Smith for the wonderful Mah-Jong Christmas tree she decorated for the display in December. It was amazing!

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

## Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



A warm welcome to 2015 to all our members.

During 2014 we had a very varied programme, including a local history walk, a trip to St. Crispins Apple Farm at Chapel Row and among others a talk by a guide at St. Pauls, a fascinating talk on holistic therapies and an excellent demonstration of table decorations by our local expert Derek Matthews.

We would like to thank Janet Ford for decorating the TLC Christmas Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival. We were very lucky and won the "prettiest tree" award.



TLC at their January meeting.

2015 has started in spectacular style with an extremely lively, informative and entertaining talk on Living in Egypt by Angie Taher complemented by extremely delicious Egyptian food to sample and buy prepared by Rabab Monaem, the photograph above was taken at this meeting.

We have very varied speakers booked until July and will be coordinating the 2015-16 diary dates soon. These will be published in the next edition of The Oaks and also on the Parish website.

- February 10th Turkish cookery with Oz Graves
- March 10th A talk about her time on Masterchef by Anne Asshton
- April 14th A history of Shaw House and Gardens by Paul James
- May 12th Wildlife photography by Tom Way
- June 9th A trip out to Chieveley Manor Garden
- July 14th History walk and The Pub

We are a non profit making ladies' group meeting on the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of August, there is a subscription of just £2 per meeting and that includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

New members will be assured of a very warm welcome so

please ladies come and join us, also if any of you have ideas for topics please let one of the committee members know.

**Wynne Frankum - Chairman**

**Jackie Sadler - Treasurer**

**Hilary Pask, Karin Warne, Susan Puri - Committee**

## Bucklebury Walkers

We have been walking the paths of Bucklebury and surrounding parishes since January 2006 – we are a mixed group of all abilities and our aim is to have a social walk each month. We walk for about 1 ½ hours and then enjoy a cup of coffee (or maybe a pint) afterwards, so the walk is both healthy and social! We meet at various places around the parish at 10.00 am on the first Thursday of each month and enjoy a Christmas dinner each year.

I would like to thank Diane Dalgarno for decorating The Walkers' Christmas Tree for the display in December. I wish I was artistic!

Thirty three of us sat down to a tasty meal at The Cottage Inn early in January – a fun evening with good food and great company. Thank you to Gary, Mandy and the staff at The Cottage for helping to make it such a good evening.

Please contact me for more details or just turn up at any of the walks – the diary is in The Oaks.

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

## Friendship Circle

Our annual Coffee Morning will take place this year on Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 10.30am at Briff Farm (off Briff Lane), Upper Bucklebury RG7 6SS. We will be holding it, as previously, in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Thanks to your wonderfully generous support, we achieved yet another record total of £1344.35 last year. After a pessimistic weather forecast, the sun shone when it mattered and we had a very happy morning.

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**

## Chapel Row Fayre

£7,000 was handed over to six local charities at the Bladebone Inn in September. The 2014 charities were West Berkshire Mencap, the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Care. All received donations of £1,500, with £750 given to Riding for the Disabled and £250 to the Anthony Nolan Trust. The August Fayre was a great success, we had our highest attendance rate, with more than 3,000 people visiting on the day.



£7,000 handed over to six local Charities in September 2015 will be the twentieth year of Chapel Row Charity Fayre.

In the last 8 years Chapel Row Charity Fayre has raised over £77,000 for many local charities and takes place this year on the Green at Chapel Row, Bucklebury on Saturday 29th August.

Our committee takes pride in working together for this great Bucklebury tradition. We rely on a small team to plan, prepare, raise funds, and organise our many helpers and are looking for a number of people to join our enthusiastic and friendly committee.

So if you have a flair for events, communications, or are a natural organiser, why not join our committee. Please contact us.

Mark Wallace, Chairman

Email : [mark@futureprologistics.cor](mailto:mark@futureprologistics.cor)

Telephone 07766 114897

<http://www.chapelrowfayre.co.uk>

**CHAPEL ROW FAYRE : BUCKLEBURY : SATURDAY  
29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2015**

## Macmillan

We had a very successful Christmas Carol Concert at St. Nicolas Church Newbury raising over £18,000 for the Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support. Many faces from Bucklebury – thank you for your continued support.

Good news, many more people are living with cancer and each day brings further improvements in drugs and treatment. However this is costly so we continue to fund raise with your help and support. We face the challenge that nearly half of the UK population in 2020 will get cancer in their lifetime. Thanks to better treatment and earlier detection, 38% of them will not die from it. This rise means that cancer services need to change radically to support more people with their range of needs. We cannot do it without our supporters. Together, we can make sure no one faces cancer alone.

Our ambition is to reach and improve the lives of everyone living with cancer and to inspire millions of others to do the same. At Macmillan we know how a cancer diagnosis can affect everything and we are here to support people from the moment they are diagnosed, through their treatment and beyond.

From help with money worries and advice about work, to someone who will listen if people just want to talk. We are millions of supporters, professionals, volunteers, campaigners and people affected by cancer.

Our Elderly Care Service in West Berkshire supporting elderly people first diagnosed with cancer and living alone has been very successful and we hope to be able to commit to a younger group. £420,000 has been committed to this service.

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.

**Erica Tipton 01189712148 [erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk)  
Chairman Macmillan Cancer Support Newbury  
Committee**

## History

The group primarily exists to promote, research and document the history of Bucklebury from as early as possible to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and share findings with all those who are interested. We have oral recordings of memories from parishioners and a collection of old photographs in our archives, both in hard copy and digitally. The Bucklebury History Database, which assists in our knowledge of the people who lived in Bucklebury from when records began, is expanding. The current index count stands at 15,158 records. Anyone wishing to look up anything on the Bucklebury History Database or who have any Bucklebury data which can be added should contact the group. Any help with research is very welcome.

We would like to thank Wynne Frankum and Anne Hillerton who helped organise the History Group Christmas Tree in The Victory Room in December. We didn't win a prize but it was great fun participating and seeing all the other lovely trees.

No general meetings planned yet this year but if anyone would like to help organise one then please do get in touch.

We have been contacted by the grandson of Mildred Jones who moved from South Wales after the death of her husband to live with her sister, Elizabeth Watkins, in Brooms, Byles Green. Does anyone remember the Watkins family or Mr & Mrs Waters from Byles Green Farm who were witnesses to Elizabeth Watkins' will? Please contact Helen. Thank you.

Helen Relf, [helenrelf@relfsociety.org](mailto:helenrelf@relfsociety.org) 01635 867619  
David Tipton, [drptipton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drptipton@yahoo.co.uk) 0118 971 2148

## Halls

### Bucklebury Memorial Hall

Our treasurer, Brian Mason, will be retiring at the end of this financial year. The committee and indeed the parishioners and all those who use the hall are grateful to Brian for all the work he has put into the hall over the last 10 years. We have a much improved facility of which we are all proud and which is well used by the local community.

We do therefore need a new treasurer. The Hall committee meets 5 or 6 times per year. If you would like to help run this local resource please contact Mike Scholl (01635868607 [MikeScholl@btinternet.com](mailto:MikeScholl@btinternet.com)) or any of the trustees (see the hall website for the list [www.buckleburymemorialhall.org.uk](http://www.buckleburymemorialhall.org.uk))

## Victory Room Quiz - Saturday 25th April

Calling all eggheads....!

- \*\*\* 1. A new version of which British coin will be introduced in 2017 ? \*\*\*
- \*\*\* 2. The village of Flash in the Peak District has the distinction of being what ? \*\*\*
- \*\*\* 3. What was the name of the BBC soap opera set in Spain which ran from July 1992 to July 1993 ? \*\*\*

If you know the answer to these questions and you fancy pitting your wits against neighbours and friends for the dubious title of Bucklebury Egghead of the Year, then the Victory Room will be the place for you when quizmaster Phil Laybourne will put your grey matter through it's paces with another trivial pursuit.

Teams should be between 4 - 8 people.

7.30pm for a 7.45pm start ;  
£8 per adult ; £4 for under 16's

Warning : there is a high likelihood that the raffle will contain unwanted, discarded Christmas presents !

Answers : 1) £1 coin , 2) Highest village in the UK , 3) Eldorado

For tickets please contact Phil for tickets: 01189714128 or email [philiplaybourne@msn.com](mailto:philiplaybourne@msn.com)

## Bucklebury Victory Room



### Bucklebury Beerfest

Last October the sixth Bucklebury Beerfest got underway in pouring rain. However by about 2 pm the skies cleared, the sun came out and everyone enjoyed the assortment of beers and various foods on offer, as well as listening to a variety of music and enjoying wandering past the stalls and taking part in games. The event made £2500, which contributes to the ongoing maintenance of the Victory room and its future development. Regrettably the hiring fees continue to fall well short of the income needed to sustain our old hall.

The Beerfest was masterminded by our secretary, Lucy Unamba, and is organized jointly by the Bucklebury events committee and the Victory room trustees. It is a lot of work for a small committee who work very hard over three days to make this event a success. We would welcome more volunteers to help in the setting up and taking down as well as on the day.

Next year, the Bucklebury Beerfest will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

### Hire the Victory Room For Your Party

The Victory Room can accommodate up to 75 people, and is very popular for children's as well as adult parties, particularly in the summer as it is next to the attractive recreation ground. It has everything you might need – childrens tables and chairs, as well as adult size, crockery and cutlery. These can also be hired to take out. The hall is ideal for post church events, being so close to St Mary's.

For availability and charges, please contact Dini Hunt on 01189712597 or email her at [dini.hunt@btinternet.com](mailto:dini.hunt@btinternet.com). Further information about the hall is published on the parish website.

**John Clarke**

**Chair of the Trustees of The Victory Room**

0118 9712768

[john.clarke@live.co.uk](mailto:john.clarke@live.co.uk)

## THE HIGHLAND CEILIDH

*With a hint of Burns Night*

*Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015  
7.30 for 8.00pm*

We are having a Ceilidh in the Victory Room again this year after the disappointment of having to cancel last February (due to the forces of nature !)

**Please Note change of date from 28<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>**

Pipe Major Ron Paterson and the St Andrews Scottish Dancers in full highland dress will demonstrate and lead a programme of reels, strathspeys and jigs. Instruction will be given and everyone (except the faint-hearted) can join in throughout the evening.

We haven't celebrated Rabbie Burns this year so we shall follow tradition and pipe in the haggis and recite the Ode to a Haggis in usual manner. A two course supper will follow including a dram of whisky and there will be a bar for further refreshment throughout the evening. There will of course be a raffle ! Full programmes will be available. Auld Lang Syne and Carriages at approximately 11.30pm.

Tickets are £15 from Alastair McOran-Campbell (0118 971 3325) or email [mcoran@btinternet.com](mailto:mcoran@btinternet.com) – **please book early as numbers are limited to 60.** Dress formal, evening or highland dress optional, sgian-dhus are permitted but not dirks.

## Sports

### Bucklebury Cricket Club



#### Summary of the Season

2014 was another fun year for Bucklebury Cricket Club. The Sunday side finished the season having played 12 games, won 9, drawn 0 and lost 3.

The club also played as a Wednesday evening side, under the name of the Bucklebury Badgers in the Downs League, winning half of their games.

#### New Players are welcome of all ages

We are very keen to welcome new players to the club. You don't have to play every game – only those that suit you. Players of all ages are welcome, from 13 to 65+ and players from neighbouring parishes to Bucklebury are most welcome too. If you are keen to play please contact Piers Allison using the details at the bottom of this article.

#### Highlights and Memories

The match between the Chairman's XI and the Captain's XI was a subdued affair this year as our former captain and co-founder of the club, Brian Ward died that morning. The teams included Brian's grandsons and son in law. It seemed as if the whole village was there to watch and to share memories.

On the pitch, the most noticeable team performances of the

season were:

- Beating Chieveley with just 2 balls to spare (after some uncertainty on the overs bowled) with some great run outs
- Beating Silchester by 44 runs (100 to Alex, 5 wickets for Tom P)
- Losing to East Garston by 1 wicket as the lightning flashed around us
- Beating Ashford Hill by 100 runs
- Beating Falkland Sunday 1st XI by 5 wickets
- Beating the Deadbats by 125 runs
- Beating Cold Ash with a great all round performance from Alex Bingley
- Beating Pangbourne by 193 runs (a record?)
- Beating the Cardiff Casuals (in our first international match by just 6 runs).

We held our annual prize giving in early January at the Blade Bone. The cup winners were: Alex Bingley (Batting), Bob Norris (Bowling), Tom Eden (the Captain's Cup), Bernie Thomson (the Young Player Award) and Craig Stephens (the Champagne Moment).

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 @



Bucklebury Cricket Club

## Bucklebury Tennis Club

HURRAY! - Our floodlights are fully operational

We are very proud to have achieved our goal.

### What Have We Achieved?

- Club members have been making the most of the new facilities.
- Local residents have been complimentary on the resulting lighting arrangements.
- League matches rescued from postponement;
- Evening mix-ins flourishing;
- Team practices and individuals are enjoying a late evening run around after work;
- Teens coaching and drills and skills and fitness sessions for everyone to start in February.

### How Did It All Happen?

The project has succeeded due to the determination of a few dedicated Club Members and of course, donations from private individuals and donor organisations. The main Donors organisations include the Greenham Common Trust and GCT Reactive Grant, WBC/GCT Vibrant Villages, the Lennox Wyfold Foundation, Bucklebury Parish Council and Bucklebury Memorial Hall; they all have our sincere thanks for their respective generous support.

### What Have We Put In Place?

A professionally designed and installed floodlighting scheme to meet LTA recommended levels of light, accurately targeted on to the courts to avoid disturbance to neighbours from unwanted glare.- a quality system, well installed.

### Come Along And Try It Out - Visitors Are Welcome.

With the additional playing times, we certainly are hoping to see new faces on the courts. This is a community facility and everyone is welcome to make use of it.

### Winter League Tennis

We have now established 5 teams in the winter league, 3 Mixed and 2 Men's. As always in the winter matches get postponed due to bad weather, but for those which have been completed, Mixed A and Men's A have 100% success. The other teams are mostly holding their own and looking to improve their record over the next part of the winter season. Last year saw Bucklebury move into the Berkshire Mixed league where our team took top honours in Division 3, let's hope they enjoy the same successes in Division 2 this coming year.

### Junior coaching

The new season for our Junior coaching (Under 13's) will start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3.30 p.m. and the **Teens Coaching** will continue on Monday evenings from 4.45 to 5.45 p.m..

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in either of these programmes. **Contact Mike James**

### Socials

It was good to see a number of our old friends joining us in a very successful Skittles evening. The team trophy "Peach's Garage Skittles Challenge Cup" was won by a very enthusiastic team of ballet dancers "Twinkle Toes" who certainly gave great support to their own team members each time there was a strike; this happened on more than one occasion!

### AGM

Whilst not totally part of our social calendar, the AGM is tentatively booked for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. However the business is mixed in with a less formal Wine & Nibbles invitation to those of you who are interested in any aspects of the Club. Do come along.

### 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)

## Bucklebury Badminton Club

The club is continuing to expand and we have members from the age of seventeen to sixtyish! It is particularly pleasing to note that the number of lady members is now nearly equal to the number of gentlemen players. We field two mixed and two men's teams as well as a ladies' team. The mixed A remains unbeaten this season although there are some difficult matches to come in the next few weeks and since the Brims sisters have "gone travelling" we may not have such a strong team.

Please come along and have a game with us – we are very friendly and welcoming! If you are an experienced player then we may well be able to use you in matches should you wish to play. If you are a beginner or just wanting to play for fun then this is the right club for you too! You can check the website or Facebook for more information or feel free to phone for a chat. Club nights are on Tuesday at Elstree School Sports Hall in Woolhampton (Sat Nav takes you to the door) from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Just turn up with indoor trainers and a racket if you have one (we can lend you one to begin with).

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

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

COST: £5 for visitors (deducted from subscription which is £105 per annum pro rata. £50 for students)

CONTACT: Margaret Neville 01635 873811

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

## Bucklebury Wolves

Bucklebury Wolves Free Junior Football Club is as popular as ever with the young people of our Parish. The five teams have been taking a break over the winter but players and Coaches alike are keen to start regular play again from February.

The Club received some great news at the end of 2014 since the main organiser, Jonathan Poole, was the proud recipient of West Berkshire District Council's 'Volunteer of the Year' award in December. He shared this prestigious award with Angela Money for her tireless work for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. (Angela went on to receive an Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours list as well so Jonathan was in very good company).

The award, based upon a submission by a Grandparent and helper, was assessed by a panel appointed by the Council and formally presented at the December Council with the Press present for the official photos. The judging panel found that the contribution made by Jonathan setting up and running Bucklebury Wolves FC was outstanding and felt that he has created a wonderful community spirit amongst those who take part. It was reported by the Newbury Weekly News that *"It is clear from the nomination that Mr Poole is a great leader and role model and is very well respected by everyone he works with"*.

Jonathan started and developed Bucklebury Wolves FC over a seven year period into a five team, hundred player Club for children aged 4 to 12. The Club was recognised as well organised, safe, fun to attend and free to participate. At a press interview afterwards, Jonathan thanked the 15 volunteer Coaches who currently help, as well as all the parents of the players. He also thanked Bucklebury Parish Council and the Bucklebury Recreation Ground Committee in anticipation of their continued support in 2015.

In reality, there are many helping hands with the Club. For example, Bucklebury Farm Park who very kindly let the visiting teams park in their grounds to alleviate the traffic in



Jonathan Poole receives the  
"Volunteer of the Year – 2014" award.

Bucklebury Village. Too many helpers to mention here individually but the next generations who are getting away from their TV screens and outside in the fresh air to learn football in a fun and non-judgemental way, do benefit.

Bucklebury Wolves Free Junior Football Club is a good example of good people working together for good outcomes to benefit children. We can all be proud of that at a local level.



The Club photo shows most of the players and coaches who attended the annual World Cup last July 2011 .

## Country Life

### Pang Valley Flood Forum

The Pang Valley Flood Forum was formed following the floods in the spring of 2014 and comprises representatives from the parishes along the River Pang from West Ilsley to Pangbourne. Its aim is to reduce the risk of flooding by working with the key agencies (the Environment Agency, West Berkshire Council and Thames Water) and by coordinating activities within and between the parishes.

The forum will shortly start mapping the key points of flood risk on a parish by parish basis into Google Maps. The actual mapping will be carried out by representatives in each parish, coordinated by the forum's technical sub-committee.

The resulting maps will enable each parish to have a standard

reference point for understanding and referring to their key flood risk assets and will document responsibility for monitoring and maintenance. As a result of being embedded in Google Maps, parishioners will be able to view those maps on a PC or mobile device.

When joined together, the maps will enable the forum to have a collective view on where there should be maintenance of watercourses or the river Pang (enabling the water to flow faster) and where active maintenance should be discouraged (enabling the water to be slowed down).

The resulting maps can be seen online at <http://www.floodalleviation.uk/apps/pangmaps.htm> and river and groundwater data for the Pang Valley can be found at <http://www.floodalleviation.uk/apps/pang.php>

An example of the map for Bucklebury Village is shown below.

**Piers Allison - Pang Valley Flood Forum**



## West Berkshire Farming & Countryside

Bucklebury ford is a well loved beauty spot on the River Pang. Last year this well known and loved landscape was looking more like a dirt bike track rather than a globally rare chalk stream. The banks and river were being destroyed by drivers and riders of four wheel drives and trail bikes on a fun day out. As well as looking ugly the effect on the river is very damaging and as well as affecting flows the erosion leads to over-widening and siltation. This activity is of particular concern when trout are spawning and any disruption to the gravels on the bed of the river by the wheels of these vehicles is a threat to the next generation of trout.



River Pang between the fords at Bucklebury.

After much discussion large logs were placed to deter 4x4s and this seems to have done the trick on the upstream section. Bucklebury Parish Council has also got consent from the Environment Agency to fence the river along the road and put posts in to stop this activity downstream but we will only do this as a last resort.

If you become aware of any activity or see anyone driving a vehicle along the river please report it to the Police on 101. In order for the Police to take action on any report, ideally, they will require a note of the number plate and a description of the vehicle. If you are able, without putting yourself in danger, take a photograph as this may help in any subsequent investigation.

**Sally Wallington**  
West Berkshire Farming and Countryside Project  
07932 3221634

## Walk: Nuttage Cottage & Browns Gate

From the Memorial Hall Car Park cross the road and turn left down the lane slightly to your right – at the end turn right on to the road and then left towards the Cemetery, which will be on your left. Follow this road to Angel's Corner where there is a map of the common. Take the path heading north keeping the Scout Camp on your left. Go past first house and then Osgood's Gully, set back from the lane, again on your left, and keep going until you come to the top end of Bucklebury Farm Park and before you reach Vanner's (a house further on).

Turn right here, keeping the park fencing on your left. Follow this path down the hill and then up to the road. You may be lucky enough to spot some of the different deer in the park.

Once at the road you should turn left onto the road, go past Nuttage Gate Cottage (*there used to be a common gate here*) and then take the first footpath sign on your right. This path crosses some fields and here you will have the excellent views over the valley.

Keeping the hedgerow on your left walk down the fields, through some gates and when you come to the road turn right. (*You will see the brick pound on the right hand side of the road to hold wandering animals until claimed*). Follow the road for a short distance until you come to a footpath sign on your right. Keep to the path, which runs to the left of the houses. This path is likely to be a little muddy.

Follow the path up the hill until it comes out on the main path, which leads from Chapel Row back to Upper Bucklebury. Turn right onto this path and head for home – you will pass the fish ponds on your right - it will bring you back to Angel's Corner.



## Memories of Bucklebury Slade Mary A. Paulin – 1975

*First published in the Parish Magazine in February and March 1975*

I live in a beautiful little hamlet called Bucklebury Slade. Two roads lead down to it, through the lovely Common, from the Cold Ash Road, and one of them passes Holly Farm, the home of my great-grandfather, John Morton.

I am the fifth generation of my family to live in The Slade, and my husband is the fourth of his family. We go back in memory to the days when we were young, over seventy years ago.

The Slade was almost self-supporting in those days. I remember nearly all the cottages (there were about thirty) had a pigsty on the Common, and in the winter a fat pig would be in it. We children used to go picking up acorns to help fatten it. When it was ready 'butcher' Green would slaughter it, and the fitches would be salted on a special stool and then dried on a rack suspended from hooks in the kitchen ceiling. My mother had a very busy time making lard from the 'flay'. The 'crittens' were made into mincemeat, the chitterlings were cleaned and put into salt water for a week, and then we had a beautiful 'fry-up' – usually on a Sunday morning for breakfast. The backbone was made into pies, and the hams salted and dried for special occasions – not a bit was wasted.

Nearly everyone kept chickens and many ducks, geese and goats. My husband's parents kept quite a lot of sheep and he says he walked miles driving them home to be sheared. My husband's father made a stable of 'fuz' (gorse). The sides were staked all round with wood off the common and then the fuz was entwined round the stakes – the roof was made of rafters

of wood entwined with birch, and then finished off with rushes.

I remember every September we had a busy time cutting fern. When dry it was carried and put into ricks and thatched with rushes to be used for bedding for the animals for the winter. In my young days I remember fetching my grandmother's drinking water from Blind John's Spring, halfway up Chapel Hill, so called because people from The Slade went that way to the Congregational Chapel, where my great-grandfather preached for many years.

Some people carried the water on yokes, wooden contraptions which fitted the shoulders, with the buckets hung on either side. The spring never went dry, although we had to be up very early in a dry summer to get the water. There were other good springs – Copswell Spring, and Birchal Spring. The water from these was used for washing and watering the gardens. For that purpose many had a water cart on iron wheels.

Every allotment was cultivated with Sutton's seeds. Mr Arthur Sutton lived at Bucklebury Place in those days and started the Fireside Club. The members paid a small annual fee and could have all the seeds they required. The gardens were judged before the annual flower show, which was a great day. The first prize was a silver cup. If won three years in succession the winner owned it. My husband's father, John Paulin, owned two cups. I remember that the men never worked in their gardens on Sunday, but spent the morning walking round each other's to see how they were getting on.

I remember the tradesmen living in The Slade. William Fisher was the builder and the bricklayers and carpenters worked for him. The Robins family were general Smiths. Some worked at the Foundry in the village. Mr Wyles was a wheelwright: William Sellwood a carpenter: John Lake a moulder: William



This photo shows Mary (on the left) when she was a teacher at Bucklebury School

King a boiler maker and Freddie Higgs, who was badly crippled, mended our watches and clocks. There was also Harry Keene, a tinker, who made us a copper kettle when we were married, and Ted Adams who used to mend the shoes.

John Paulin was a wood dealer and hurdle maker, and was also one of the Haywards of the Common for twenty-five years. He was paid 15s 0d. a year. His duties were to move the gypsies on if they stayed too long, and pound their horses if they strayed into the farmers' fields or down the lanes. The pound was on top of the green, and the charge was sixpence to get the horses out again. Many gypsies camped on the Common in the winter – they were friendly people and we knew them well. They would come round to the houses to sell their pegs and if you passed their camps on a dark night they would wish you a friendly 'goodnight'.

I remember my mother making the home brewed beer. She would start at four o'clock in the morning and not finish until ten o'clock at night, as the old recipe had to be carried out correctly. She brewed twice a year, June for haymaking and December for Christmas. She brought the malt and hops from Newbury in her pony and cart, which she drove every Thursday to get her groceries for the neighbours. We children never tasted the beer as we were all teetotalers and wore a little white ribbon badge.

I can just remember the old bake house. It was just by the Baptist Chapel. It had a baker's oven and was heated with a bavin of wood. When it was ready the cottagers would bring their pies and cakes to be baked.

I remember we looked forward to Whit Monday. There was a big barn at William Sellwood's on top of the hill and the men of The Slade had a dinner there. It was a club of some sort. In the afternoon there was a Sale of Work by the members of the Baptist Chapel and the proceeds went to the upkeep of the Chapel.

It has always puzzled me where people got their education. Nearly all could play some instrument. My father played a concertina and I had music lessons from Mr William Green for 3d. an hour, on an harmonium. My grandmother was a great reader and a beautiful writer, and one of my aunts kept a little school at Ivy Cottage (now called Picton Farm). We seemed to get harder winters when I was young, for on moonlight nights we used to go sliding on Hope's Pond on the green. The Hope family lived there before my time, and owned a cottage which is still called Hope Cottage. Rather unkindly their son was known as the 'village idiot'. He was a middle aged man when I knew him. After his parents died he lived with Mr. & Mrs. Wyles. He wouldn't do much work, but every Sunday he dressed in his Sunday suit and went to the Congregational Chapel, and sat in the same seat by the stove, and seemed to enjoy the services. Mr. & Mrs. Wyles were very good to him, and he lived with them until he died, quite an old man.

## Bucklebury Heathland

We start the spring 2015 with the Lower Common looking in very good condition. We have had three work parties cutting, burning up and generally tidying up, in addition to our regular monthly group, so it really is an open space.

Two contractors will be working for us, one on the lower common will use a tractor mounted flail to cut tall heather and silver birch and the second to cut and remove gorse on the upper common that has made too much regrowth.

We are sure the Night Jars will be back, and hope the Wood Larks will re appear, but once again water is lying in large puddles all over the common and they might decide to go to a drier area.

Tim Culley

## West Berkshire Countryside Society

The events below 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 3pm 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.

**Saturday 14th February 1.00pm.**

**Bucklebury Common Heathland management**

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat.

Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688

**Sunday 15th February 2.30pm.**

**'Identifying Trees in Winter'. A short 2km - 2 hour stroll.**

There is one modest hill.

Meet at Hermitage Church SU507 729. Join Charles

Gilchrist to find out how to identify trees in winter. Car share if possible - parking space is limited along the roadside

**Sunday 8th March 10.30am - 1.00pm.**

**Bucklebury Common Heathland management**

Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat.

Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688

For further information please see the website -

[www.westberks countryside.org.uk](http://www.westberks countryside.org.uk)

Save the date!

# Bucklebury Boot Bazaar

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

The Old Vicarage Field

Bucklebury Village RG7 6PL

2-5pm

in aid of the Bucklebury parish churches

Sellers: £15 - set up from 12.30pm

Buyers: £2 entrance charge from 2pm (under 16s free)

plus TEAS, CAKES, PLANTS AND BRIC-A-BRAC

for more details contact Amanda Service  
[amanda.service@me.com](mailto:amanda.service@me.com)

Individual sellers welcome and an ideal opportunity for clubs and charities to boost their own funds by taking a pitch

## Winds in Time 2

### Great Music from Great Composers

The second in our series of concerts exploring the history of Wind Band music from 1900 to 1950

St Mary's Church, Thatcham  
Saturday 14th March, 7.30pm



Programme includes Percy Grainger's masterpiece, *Lincolnshire Posy*, *Suite of Old American Dances* by Robert Russell Bennett and works by Holst and Vaughan Williams.

Tickets in advance £10 (Concessions £8, U18s £2)  
On the door £12 (or £10 and £2 respectively)  
Or from [Wegotickets.com](http://Wegotickets.com), Orchestra members or contact

Gay Spackman [dandyeve@pipex.com](mailto:dandyeve@pipex.com) 0118 9712575

## Contributions

Material to appear in The Oaks should be sent neatly as a word-processor document (e.g. MS Word), attached to an e-mail and sent to "[lindy.clarke@live.co.uk](mailto: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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# Parish Diary Dates

## February

9th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall - Committee Room.
10th	TLC	7.45pm	The Oak Room.
14th	Bucklebury Heathland Management	10.30am - 1.00pm	Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688.
15th	West Berkshire Countryside Society	2.30pm	Walk - "Identifying Trees in Winter". Meet at Hermitage church SU507 729.
16th	Mahjong	2.00pm - 4.30pm.	The Oak Room.
20th	St. Martin's Club (tea & biscuits)	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
20th	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Society	8.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
21st	Highland Ceilidh	7.30pm	The Victory room.
23rd	Planning Committee	8.00pm	The Victory Room.

## March

2nd	Mahjong	2.00pm - 4.30pm.	The Oak Room.
3rd	St. Martin's Club	2.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
8th	Bucklebury Heathland Management	10.30am - 1.00pm	Meet at Angels Corner SU550 688.
9th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall - Committee Room.
10th	TLC	7.45pm	The Oak Room.
14th	Common Clearing	2.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
16th	Mahjong	2.00pm - 4.30pm.	The Oak Room.
20th	St. Martin's Club (tea & biscuits)	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
20th	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Society	8.00pm	The Memorial Hall.
21st	Bucklebury Events Committee		French Evening at Woodys.
<b>23rd</b>	Planning Committee	8.00pm	The Victory Room.

## April

2nd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	Victory Room Carpark, Bucklebury.
7th	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Society	8.00pm	The Memorial Hall.
13th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall - Committee Room.
14th	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Society	7.00pm	Cottismore Garden centre
14th	TLC	7.45pm	The Oak Room.
20th	Mahjong	2.00pm - 4.30pm.	The Oak Room.
25th	Quiz	7.30pm	The Victory Room.
27th	Planning Committee	8.00pm	The Victory Room.

## May

7th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	Car park on south side of Common Road (between Upper Bucklebury & Chapel Row.
11th	Bucklebury Parish Council (AGM)	7.45pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall - Committee Room.
12th	TLC	7.45pm	The Oak Room.
15th	Annual Parish Assembly	8.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
18th	Mahjong	2.00pm - 4.30pm.	The Oak Room.
30th	Bucklebury Boot Bazaar	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Old Vicarage Field, Bucklebury (RG7 6PL).