

# The Oaks



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## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

We are very fortunate to have appointed two very competent parish councillors to fill the vacancies in the east and west wards.

Robin Rankin has lived in the parish since 2005 and will be a valuable addition to the councillors representing the east ward. He is looking forward to retiring shortly and is particularly interested in the environment and the local area. David Southgate has lived on Turners Green since 1989. His family grew up here and so he has been involved with local schools, clubs and societies. He has expertise in conservation and environmental management as well as having an interest in local history.

We look forward to working with both of them and using their expertise.

The last stumbling block preventing the transfer of the meadows to the parish has still not been resolved despite our best efforts. We are doing our best and are sorry to try your patience.

We had a very successful Common Clearing in March, despite it clashing with an important rugby fixture. We have been advised to change the date next year! Thank you to everybody who turned out to collect the vast amount of rubbish and to the cake makers for the usual delicious cakes. Helen Pratt does a great job of organising the day.

The persistent water leaks have been monitored and we have had numerous conversations with Thames Water. A public meeting is being organised at the Memorial Hall. For details see this issue.

BPC took over the responsibility and management of the Fred Dawson Play Park and BMX track from the Memorial Hall Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Anne Hillerton is leading the BPC committee which Alan Dunkerton has also generously joined. If you have any concerns about either facility please contact the clerk. One of the first things that will be done is replacing some of the fencing around the Play Park.

The Victory Room committee is all set to start fund raising seriously for our new village hall. Donations large and small will be welcomed. Please see the article in this edition.

We continue to monitor and respond to the misuse of 4x4s and motor bikes on the

Parish Council Chairman  
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk  
Helen Pratt

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### Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly

7.30pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Memorial Hall  
Upper Bucklebury

\*\*\*\*\*

#### The Story of the North Wessex Downs AONB

By Rose Somerset

(Communications Officer for the North Wessex Downs AONB)

\*\*\*\*\*

Do please try and come to hear both what has happened, and what is in the pipeline, but above all say what you want from our Parish.

\*\*\*\*\*

Refreshments will be available after the meeting

common. If you see anybody acting illegally please contact the police as soon as possible.

Some dog walkers on the common seem to treat their dog bags rather like Christmas decorations by hanging them in the bushes. If you do not wish to take your dog bag home, please knock the faeces (not bagged) into the undergrowth where they can decompose quickly.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear Rose Somerset talking about the wonderful area of outstanding natural beauty in which we are fortunate to live at the Annual Parish Assembly on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Details in this issue.

The leaflet and map about veteran trees in Bucklebury has become out of date. Dick Greenaway, of the West Berkshire Countryside Society, who was responsible for the original leaflet, has generously found the time to update it. The WBCS have offered to look into funding the new leaflet. I would like to thank Helen Pratt for taking new photos where required and to all the people involved in the update.

Parish Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays in the month, in the committee room of the Memorial Hall. They are public meetings open to all. If you wish to come and raise any issue, it is helpful if you contact the clerk beforehand. We take matters concerning visiting members of the public first although of course you may stay for as long as you wish.

### **Wynne Frankum Chair BPC**



Veteran Tree in Hopgoods Green

## **The Story of the North Wessex Downs**

The North Wessex Downs is an amazing yet often overlooked landscape. Its story begins more than 150 million years ago when tiny algae were deposited on the beds of warm seas creating the layers of chalk we now see in the characteristic rolling hills. Over the last six thousand years man has lived, farmed, fought, hunted and prospered here and there is evidence everywhere of the way people have used and shaped the land. For wildlife, the North Wessex Downs offers a rich variety of special habitats for many unusual and rare species.

It's not surprising that this area has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty protected by law to ensure that its special qualities are conserved and enhanced - but what does that mean for the people who live and work here and the visitors who come to explore the area every year?

If you'd like to know more about this intriguing landscape, Rose Somerset the communications officer from the North Wessex Downs AONB partnership will be at the Bucklebury Annual Assembly at 7.30pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury.

### **Bucklebury Cemetery**

Following some fascinating research, the chapel, built in 1885, has been submitted for local listing. The local listings committee meets in May to decide which applicants are suitable.

The next step is to photograph the metal grave markers, which were, of course, designed and made in the foundry at Bucklebury. Having recorded the information on the markers, the forms will be submitted later in the year. Fortunately our two new parish councillors are keen to be involved in this listing.

The rhododendrons at the back and to the west of the chapel will be cut back significantly later this year.

The wild flowers are left to flourish and seed before they are cut. They are very pretty, so we hope visitors enjoy them.

Rules and regulations for the cemetery are available on the noticeboard at the Cemetery, on the Parish Council Website (<http://www.buckleburyparish.org>) or from Helen Pratt, the superintendent. If you wish to change in any way the grave you look after, please check with Helen first.

**Wynne Frankum Chair of the Burial Board.**

## Planning

The first few months of this year have been very busy in planning terms. At the March Planning Meeting, there were 6 planning applications on the agenda. I think this is the most we've ever had.

If you have submitted a planning application and you are interested in hearing the Parish Council's opinion on it, you are very welcome to attend the public meeting where it will be considered. Please contact me (Helen Pratt, the Clerk) and I should be able to advise you of when it will be discussed. Two councillors visit the significant majority of planning sites so that there is a better understanding of each application; if you meet them, they should also be able to advise you of the date when the application will be discussed by the Council.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
15/00296/OUTMAJ	<b><u>Land at Siege Cross Farm, Bath Road (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Outline application for the phased development of up to 495 dwellings; up to 250sqm of Use Class D1 floor space; a new primary school of up to 2 forms of entry; vehicular, pedestrian and cycle accesses; public open space; children's play areas; landscaping; structural planting; new woodland planting; sustainable urban drainage measures including water detention basins; associated ground modelling; and all associated works. Means of vehicular access into the site proposed in full. Matters to be considered: Access – Into the Site	Object	Refused by WBC. Taken to appeal.
16/02529/OUTD	<b><u>Land Adjacent to Summerfield, The Ridge (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Outline application for change of use of part of existing agricultural field to residential and the erection of 5 no. detached dwelling houses with ancillary garages, access, parking, landscaping and associated works. Matters to be considered access and layout.	Object	Approved by Western Area Planning Committee.
16/02923/CERTE	<b><u>Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Retail garden centre.	Comments submitted.	Refused. Taken to Appeal.
16/02922/OUTD	<b><u>Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Outline application for the demolition of garden centre and replace with 4 x custom build dwellings – Matters to be considered: Access.	Object	Refused. Taken to appeal.
16/01193/OUTD	<b><u>Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u></b> Outline application for the demolition of Glenvale Garden Centre and associated buildings and replace with 5 x self-build/custom build houses with associated garages using existing access. Matters to be considered: Access.	Object	Refused on appeal.
16/03081/HOUSE	<b><u>Westrop Cottage, Westrop Green.</u></b> Erection of a detached oak framed garage and garden office replacing existing outbuilding.	No Objection	Refused.
16/03176/FUL	<b><u>Middle Wood, Hatch Lane.</u></b> Change of use of land to residential for the positioning of a temporary mobile home as a forestry worker's dwelling (application for 3 years).	No Objection	Approved.
16/03291/HOUSE & 16/03292/LBC2	<b><u>Wallins, Westrop Green.</u></b> Demolition of existing 1960's and 1980's single storey extension to the side of the original grade II listed cottage. Construction of a new single storey extension in place of existing extensions. Replacement of 2 no: non original crittall windows in original cottage with timber casement windows.	No Objection	Approved.
16/03521/CERTE	<b><u>Marlston Farm.</u></b> Use of land as domestic garden.	Comments submitted.	Refused.
16/03522/CERTE	<b><u>Marlston Farm.</u></b> Erection and use of building and adjoining land as a separate independent dwelling.	Comments submitted.	Partially approved

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
17/00156/HOUSE	<b><u>Beech Cottage, Burdens Heath.</u></b> Proposed rear orangery	No Objection	Approved
16/03627/HOUSE	<b><u>Stable Cottage, Upper Woolhampton.</u></b> Proposed side and front extension	Object	Approved
17/00078/FUL	<b><u>J Sellwood, Long Grove.</u></b> Dismantling of existing derelict bungalow with purpose of recycling bricks on site for new construction. Erection of new single private low-carbon 2-storey family dwelling by way of self-build by owner of the site.	No Objection	
16/01782/FULD	<b><u>Bushnells Green Farmhouse.</u></b> Retention of existing timber lodge as farm worker accommodation. Non-compliance with condition 12 of approved 13/03014/FUL.	Object	Refused Taken to appeal.
16/01926/HOUSE	<b><u>Osgoods Gully.</u></b> Two storey rear extension.	Object	Approved on appeal.
17/00281/CERTE	<b><u>Rose Bank, Marlston.</u></b> Use of land as domestic curtilage.	Comments submitted	Lawful.
17/00261/HOUSE	<b><u>Ormsby, Broad Lane.</u></b> Two storey side extension, new conservatory roof and detached garage.	No Objection	Approved.
17/00270/HOUSE	<b><u>The Dower House, Midgham Green.</u></b> Proposed triple bay garage block with ancillary accommodation.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.
17/00313/HOUSE	<b><u>43 Berrys Road.</u></b> Two storey side extension.	No Objection	Approved.
17/00369/FUL	<b><u>Land South of Cherry Orchard Cottage, Hatch Lane.</u></b> New stable outbuilding.	Object	Awaiting Decision.
17/00215/HOUSE	<b><u>Marlston Farm.</u></b> Extensions to dining room and front door entrance porch.	Object	Awaiting Decision.
17/00571/HOUSE	<b><u>Whitethorns Cottage, The Avenue.</u></b> A single storey timber outbuilding for use as a garden room.	No Objection	Approved.
17/00608/HOUSE	<b><u>49 Broad Lane.</u></b> Roof modifications, new front extension to form lobby and single storey rear extension. Modified dormers to rear.	No Objection	Approved.
17/00658/HOUSE	<b><u>Hytaville, Byles Green.</u></b> Proposed two storey side and rear extension and refurbishment of existing dwelling.	Object	Awaiting Decision.
17/00541/FULD	<b><u>Abbey View, Paradise Lane.</u></b> Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a new dwelling with car port.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.
17/00671/HOUSE	<b><u>3 Rose Cottages, The Slade.</u></b> Single storey rear extension.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.
17/00512/HOUSE	<b><u>Ingleside, Fanny's Lane.</u></b> Erection of two storey rear extension with new traditional car port to the side of the property.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.
17/00787/HOUSE	<b><u>Paxton House, Sadgrove Lane.</u></b> Alterations and extensions to dwelling including single and first floor rear extensions and replacement flat roof with roof lights.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.
17/00833/HOUSE	<b><u>Brackenwood, Little Lane.</u></b> Proposed porch with additional roof dormer and internal first floor alterations.	No Objection	Awaiting Decision.

## Water

Those of us who have lived here for a few years will know of the regular water supply issues involving low pressure, main supply pipe fractures and pump failures. About five years ago a senior Thames Water manager attended our Parish Assembly and resolved to address the issues by installing pressure regulating devices in the pipe network to prevent the “spikes” of excessive pressure (caused when the pumps were reset) from rupturing the pipe that runs up to the parish along Harts Hill.

Following the installation of these regulators I thought our supply problems had diminished but, more recently, there has been a spate of pipe failures culminating in three major breaks in a fortnight near the pumps a month ago, followed by another at the top of the hill by the “Triangle”. Each resulted in a loss of water to a significant part of the parish for a period of time.

Earlier in the year we had a meeting with senior members of Thames Water’s customer relations team and they assured us they had a plan to resolve the problems; they installed a back-up generator to prevent the pumps from failing and revealed they were intending to replace the pumps later this year. We did point out that the major issue was pipe failure and that it was this, we felt, that should be addressed. We then suffered the breakages detailed above.

We have recently learnt that Thames Water have identified funding to replace the main pipe from the (new) pumps to Upper Bucklebury, this work should be undertaken this year we are assured and should resolve our supply problems permanently.

Thames Water will be holding a drop-in session for members of the parish on May 8<sup>th</sup> between 3.30pm and 6.30pm in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall and will then host a meeting there from 6.30 to 7.30pm for questions to be asked.

I think this is very positive news and thank all of you who have been reporting problems and complaining, you have all contributed to what should be a much more reliable water supply.

**Graham Pask**



Volunteer Village Agents are making a real difference to older and socially isolated residents in West Berkshire, helping them to find the services that can help improve the quality of their lives.

Many of us can be 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 services and allow them to enjoy the community they live in.

Below is an example of how the Volunteer Village Agents are helping people in their communities;

A gentleman was having falls and had several visits to hospital. He was concerned about getting into the bath. The Village Agent contacted the housing association and Adult Social Care were asked to assess him and to design a care package. We also contacted the Welfare Officer of the Royal British Legion, to make them aware of his situation and referred him to the Befriend scheme, to find him a befriender.

The Scheme is run by the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire (Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156302) If you or some one you know, would like the help of a Village Agent or if you fancy volunteering to become a Agent yourself call our direct line on 01635 581001 or look at our website [www.villageagentswb.org.uk](http://www.villageagentswb.org.uk)

**Our new direct line**  
**West Berkshire Volunteer**  
**Village Agents**

**01635 581001**

Volunteer Centre  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156302

## West Berks District Councillor

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

Firstly a plea for help. Since Christmas there have been many abuses of some of our byways. It is legal to use a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) with a vehicle but it is illegal to damage its surface, which is what has happened on a number of our byways in Bucklebury. During the first three months of the year when it was very wet (and hence more "fun") much damage was caused by irresponsible people using 4x4 vehicles and motorcycles. The Council has responded quickly by placing Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) on the worst affected byways which makes it illegal to use them for up to a maximum of six months. The good news however is that it has been decided to place seasonal TROs on several of the worst affected byways from October until April every year starting this autumn.

Sadly some areas of the Common (for example by Osgoods) have also been abused as has the River Pang adjacent to the ford. This activity is illegal hence the plea for help. Often the abuse of these areas occurs late in the evening so, if you notice or hear unusual activity, please report it to the Police, who are taking the issue very seriously, but need the information to act and prevent this from happening. If the perpetrators are caught they are first issued with a notice warning them that their driving is illegal and if they ignore this and are caught again then their vehicles can be impounded and even destroyed. Bucklebury Common has many points of access so the Police rely on being told when such abuse is happening so please call them on 101 and obtain a reference number for your call.

We mentioned in the last edition of The Oaks an update of the Local Plan. We are pleased to be able to confirm that the Planning Inspector has agreed the Plan with no changes and that it will now be adopted by Council on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Rather like that famous rail bridge in Scotland, however, it is now time to

start all over again with a new Plan to take us up to 2036, the "call for sites" has already closed and the process of selecting new sites will start later in the year. Our intention is to minimise the pressure on our villages, some of which have had considerable housing allocated, and aim for more strategic (larger) sites where we gain significant infrastructure such as road and community benefits.

Finally, the Boundary Commission has accepted our decision to reduce the number of District Councillors to 42 from the election in 2019 and Bucklebury parish will be linked with Stanford Dingley, Midgham and Woolhampton as far as the District Council ward is concerned and served by one Councillor. There are no changes to the Parish Councils (or, of course the parishes).

**Graham Pask - District Councillor.**



# Thames Water

## Drop-In Session

**15:30 – 18:30**

We'll be here to talk about any specific queries you have,  
and our planned improvements for this area.

## Consultation Meeting

**18:30 - 19:30**

We'll be talking directly with the Parish Council about our  
planned improvements for this area. You are welcome to  
join us.

# Monday 8 May 2017

## The Oak Room

**We look forward to meeting you.**

## West Berkshire Energy Switch Spring Auction - registration now open

West Berkshire Council is encouraging residents to see if they can get a better deal by signing up to the West Berkshire Energy Switch.

According to OfGem around 20 million energy customers in Britain are on standard variable tariffs and likely to be over paying for their energy. Suppliers' standard tariffs are usually their most expensive, and in recent weeks many suppliers have announced headline price rises for these tariffs.

Latest figures from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy show that 67% of electricity customers, and 66% of gas customers are on standard tariffs. These customers are paying on average £117 more annually for their electricity and £134 more annually for their gas, than those on fixed tariffs.

Customers on a fixed tariff are urged to check their fix end date, as once this ends they too will be moved to a standard tariff.

If your fixed deal is coming to an end shortly, you will usually be able to switch without penalty during the last 42-49 days of a fixed tariff. Check with your supplier in the first instance as this will vary between suppliers. Customers on a very good fixed deal, looking to fix now, will likely find that they have to pay more for their energy.

In the past year, the West Berkshire Energy Switch has saved switchers over £59,132. Those residents registering and switching in the recent February auction still saved an average of £128.66 on their annual energy bills, despite a rising energy market.

The West Berkshire Energy Switch is a free to join scheme which gives residents the chance to make savings on their fuel bills by registering to take part. A one day reverse auction will then be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, where suppliers compete with their best offers, the winning supplier/s then sends registrants their personalised offer for consideration. There is no obligation to switch; sign up and see if you can save. To register or find out more, visit [www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch)

You will need to have your latest energy bill to hand, as you'll need the details during the registration process. Registration is open to all. Register by **midnight on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 17** to be sure of taking part (additionally West Berkshire residents will have approximately 4 additional weeks to sign up after this, subject to the winning suppliers' agreement).

West Berkshire residents without internet access can contact 01635 503267 to register - remember to have your energy bill or annual statement to hand when you call.

## Family

### Bucklebury Church of England Primary School

The school took part in the second annual Easter pilgrimage from St Mary's Church up to school in Upper Bucklebury. Every child and many adults walked the 2 miles or so through the glorious Berkshire countryside to mark the season of Easter. Pupils walked to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research, this year's charity chosen by the school council. Once more it was a fabulous event, adding so much to the poignancy of the Easter Service. The service was shaped to retell the events of holy week. Combining speech, song and drama, pupils led the school in marking the mystery and glory of the greatest Christian festival.

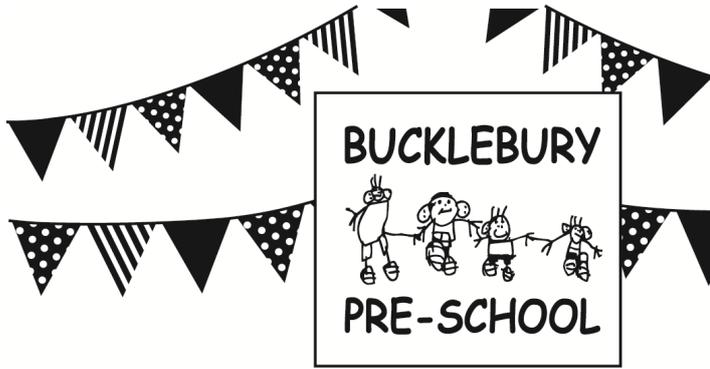
Observing the Church year and its festivals is a crucial part of our foundation as a Church school. Our core values of love, faith and hope shape all that we do. Growing the whole child in every child is not just a phrase for us. It means we must always be thinking about how we can shape school life to ensure pupils flourish in mind, body and spirit. We do this together with each pupil leading their own learning and development.

While the school year may well be turning to statutory assessments and the accountability of numbers, we know that each pupil is much more important than digits on a page. In passionately pursuing a genuine breadth to all that we do, we aim to live out our values every single day. In so doing, we hope that we are able to pass on children ready for the challenges that are to come, eager to challenge themselves and serve one another.

Kind regards

Mr A. Higgs





Did you notice a parade of pirates treasure hunting in Bucklebury on 1st April? No, you weren't imagining things and this was no April Fools' Day trick!

As a charity run organisation, Bucklebury Pre-school relies heavily upon regular fundraising events. Such events raise money to provide vital educational resources for the children as well as helping towards the costs of day to day running of the Pre-school. This year we decided that alongside our usual Easter Hat Parade event, we would also organise and hold our very own Pirate Treasure Hunt. Pirates is a theme that the vast majority of children at the Pre-school have a general interest in and will also be the focus of their learning and activities over the next term. It therefore seemed fitting to run with this theme early and to organise a weekend event in order to include extended family and friends of the Pre-school.

The day itself proved to be a huge success. We were extremely lucky with the weather and there was a real buzz in the air both inside the hall and out. The children enjoyed following their pirate maps and collecting letter clues to crack the secret code. For the older children there was the additional challenge of naming a selection of well-known pirates. I know some adults who will admit to not knowing some of these, myself included, but the children did fantastically well! After each group had completed their walk, they gathered back at the Memorial Hall. It was wonderful to see so many people with connections to the Pre-school together in one place, catching up over well-deserved drinks and plenty of biscuits (they had just completed a long walk after all!).

The event was a reminder of what a fantastic community we have in Bucklebury. It was a perfect opportunity for friends old and new to meet up again while also raising money for a great cause. People's generous donations on the day, as well as ticket entry money, were gratefully received and ensured that not only was the event an enjoyable one but a profitable one too.

Bucklebury Pre-school currently has a few spaces available. If you are interested and would like to find out more, or to arrange a visit, please email [chair@buckleburypreschool.co.uk](mailto:chair@buckleburypreschool.co.uk). Alternatively why not check out our website [www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk](http://www.buckleburypreschool.co.uk) or our Bucklebury Pre-school Facebook page for further details of our past, present and future events.

**Samantha Hillerton - Bucklebury Pre-School Chair**

## Bucklebury Community Bus

Bucklebury Community Bus is working well. We have regular bookings in addition to the school runs during the week and sometimes bookings during the weekends. The bus itself is going strong and our maintenance programme is ensuring that it will continue to do so. Even so the team is looking towards the future and looking at ways we can secure a new bus be it by grants or capital expenditure.

The school runs will be changing times again in the new term and we will be contacting parents of the rising year 7s to inform them of the bus service we provide. We are planning on keeping our prices the same as last year, but we will know for certain over the summer break, once we have finalised the accounts for the school year.

The discussions with West Berkshire council are continuing with regards to other bus services, but the feedback from the community has been very poor, so we are unable to gauge how much interest there is in us providing additional community services.

A group from Chieveley has been in touch with us, as they are going to look at setting up their own service, due to the extortionate cost of paying West Berkshire for their school bus places. Hopefully they will have as much success as we have had, which is down to the team behind the service and donations from the parish council and private individuals.

**Stephen Manson**  
07769800263  
[buckleburybus@gmail.com](mailto:buckleburybus@gmail.com)



## West Berkshire Ballet School

Holly & Jane are looking forward to welcoming 22 keen ballet students to our 4-day Easter Ballet course. The dancers will enjoy daily body conditioning; a ballet class; rehearsals for their Easter ballet to perform to parents & families and a chance to compete for the most beautifully decorated programme, which Claire will judge on the final day.



Easter Ballet Course Students

Of course the highlight of the Summer Term will be our own production of *The Nutcracker* at Arlington Arts on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June. We have been thrilled to see that the three performances are practically sold out, which means that very nearly 600 people will be watching! Rehearsals have been going very well and we know the cast of 90 will have a wonderful week during the Summer half-term, putting the final touches to their part. For some of our students, this will be their 8<sup>th</sup> production with WBBS and the thrill and experience of being part of such a large production is something they will remember for a long time to come. This year is very special for two of our mums who are ex-pupils of WBBS and now have their daughters dancing in their first show!

Claire is holding her extremely popular Summer School, which now spans 2 weeks in order to accommodate everyone! This year the team will be putting on 'Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' in only 4 days! It has to be seen to be believed! Week one 22-25 August or Week two 29 August-1 September. Early booking is advised as places are strictly limited.

Our dancing term ends with a full coach to see *Half a Sixpence* in London – can't think of a happier way to finish our action packed term.

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

## Organisations

### Bucklebury History Group

I would like to thank everyone who came to Bucklebury in Old Photos in March – especially all those who helped with setting up the computer, putting out chairs and tables, making the teas and washing up.

It was also lovely to see new faces there and hear all about their family history and memories of Bucklebury. Lots of new information and photographs were given to me, thank you.

A special thank you goes to Stuart Bodwin, who has very kindly donated a George Lailey Bowl to the History Group. The bowl will now stay in Bucklebury.

Wynne Frankum is working on a project, in conjunction with Royal Holloway, University of London and the U3A, about John Morton – I know it will make interesting reading when completed.

There is now a Historical Society in Bradfield – they meet at The Queen's Head, Southend Bradfield and the next meeting will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 p.m. Dorcas Ward has studied the 1851 census of Bradfield and will be giving a talk *House to House in Bradfield in 1851*. Visitors are made very welcome.

If anyone would like to do some research connected with the 1851 census of Bucklebury then we still have some areas that have not been researched. Please contact me!

Please also contact me if you have any old photos of Bucklebury – we are particularly looking for photos of the Berry's Road area before the houses and the school were built.

Helen Relf, [grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com) 01635 867619

### Hash & Chan

Hash and Chan would like to thank everybody for all their kind words, thoughts and support during Hash's illness and after his operation.

Hash would like to add that he is making good progress.

## Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

What a lovely spring; if it carries on in this vein it will break many records. It may be different for other parts of the country, but Bucklebury can have no complaints. The snowdrops, primroses, anemones and tree blossom have been prolific, the best that I can remember, and our plucky gardeners still managed to hold back a fine display of daffodils for our Spring Show.

Our social programme has been good also. Tom Way's pictures of wildlife drew many oohs and aarhs from a packed audience in the Memorial Hall. Rosemary Hardy's husband proved a worthy substitute to present the array of interesting perennials which their prize-winning nursery produces. Quality plants were available at reasonable prices and his truck went back lighter on its return journey. Incidentally the nursery at Freefolk (halfway between Whitchurch and Overton) has an open-day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June. The nearby Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery is also open, but you will need to book on-line for the tour, in advance!

Looking forward, we have several events to enjoy. Starting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, Crissy Clemson will tell of recent developments at White Tower Nurseries in Aldermaston, although you may have missed this by the time of reading. We are invited to Cottismore Garden Centre's open evening on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 6.30pm, giving you enough time to snap up a few bargains and get back home to plant them. Cottismore is on the right off the Newbury Road a mile before reaching Kingsclere.

The proposed coach trip to Highgrove proved an impossible objective. The high profile of the gardens makes filling their limited visiting quota an easy challenge for the booking office and an unpleasant experience for organisers. Booking is difficult, the tours are restricted, inflexible and very expensive. Once accepted there is still security and photographic identification to negotiate. No cameras are allowed. As an alternative; on the 17<sup>th</sup> June leaving Bucklebury at 9.30, we will first visit Harcourt Arboretum, then on to Oxford Botanical Gardens, where we can picnic or pop into the city for lunch. In the afternoon we move on to Waterperry to enjoy their beautiful ornamental gardens, museum and teashop. Three horticultural gems for less than half the price of Highgrove!

The gardens in Beenham are open during the afternoon on the Sunday immediately following our trip. Keep nurturing your plants, snapping photos and baking in preparation for our Summer Show. Full details are in the schedule. Don't forget the children's classes (and grandchildren)!

Details of all our activities are included in our blue 2017 schedule. New members are always welcome; bring a friend or neighbour to any of our events and if you feel you have the energy to help the Society, why not join our very small and intimate committee? Membership is free for a trial year: contact John Wright (01635 863429).

**Happy Gardening.**  
**Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)**



## 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 learn.

We usually have 12 – 15 playing each time and chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit (or two) as well. Cost is £1.50 per person.

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.

Do come along and enjoy a fun afternoon with lots of laughs.

**Helen Relf, [grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com) 01635 867619**



## Bucklebury Painters in The Victory Room

We are a small group of painters who meet regularly in The Victory Room, Bucklebury, on a Monday morning between 10.00 and 12.30.

We are all still learning and gain a tremendous amount of knowledge and support from our fellow painters. We have a mix of styles and abilities and use watercolours, acrylics, pencil, charcoal, inks, chalk and oil pastels.

Occasionally during the term we have professional artists who run workshops and demonstrations.

If you would like to join us, please ring Angela on 0118 9712897 or just pop in on a Monday morning.

The next dates are April 24th, May 8th, May 15th, May 22nd, June 5th, June 12th, June 19th, June 26th July 3rd and July 10th.



## Bucklebury Events Committee

Woody's resounded to much slurping and chat when the "Call My Bluff Wine Evening" was held there in March. The excellent panel had everybody guessing and Lindsey McNish kept everything flowing along. The Woody's Team provided a delicious continental ploughman's and worked incredibly hard to ensure the evening went with a swing. We are indebted again to Rupert and Elizabeth Hartley Russell for their support.

Looking ahead, don't forget the Christmas Tree Festival, to be held at the Memorial Hall on the first Sunday in December.

If you would like help arrange events and join the very friendly committee please ring 01635 863372.

**Bucklebury Events Committee**

## Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



We hope that all our members had a lovely Easter and are enjoying the beautiful spring sunshine and the countryside bursting into life.

Since the last edition of The Oaks our members have enjoyed some fascinating evenings. The year started with an inspiring photographic evening with Tom Way and by popular request, we opened the meeting to guests, which was very well attended.

Our February meeting fell on Valentine's Day so we had a quiz night with brain teasers set by Sue Puri.

The last two meetings have been audience participation events and both tremendous fun. Flowers were the theme of our March meeting and Louise Embling judged our efforts at making Sweet Peas in sugar paste, some were more successful than others and Karin Warne won 'Best in show'! The artistry and patience involved in cake decorating was awe-inspiring, I will look at sugar paste decorations with great appreciation in future.

Decoupage with Fiona Chant of Chant Crafts was our inspiring guest speaker for April and we made boxes from two pieces of flat card which once folded correctly transformed into gift boxes with lids. These would be ideal for filling with small token gifts. We then made a box suitable for confetti and a Thank You card out of card and paper.

I know it is a long way off but Fiona is already booked for November 2018.

Dates for your diary are as follows:

May 9<sup>th</sup> Matthew Dorich on foraging for food. This is an open meeting so please bring guests.

June 13<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Cream Tea at Jackie Sadler's house ( 53 Broad Lane).

July 11<sup>th</sup> Walk/Talk by the Kennet and Avon Canal trust.

August No meeting.

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> There is a talk about security from a member of the local Police Force.

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Jewellery workshop.

This is your Ladies group so any ideas for topics or speakers are always welcome. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Oak Room in Upper Bucklebury. The cost of each meeting is £3 to cover the cost of the hall and speakers and also includes refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Committee members: Wynne Frankum, Jackie Sadler, Hilary Pask, Karin Warne and Sue Puri.**

## Pilates

Pilates is a form of exercise that is suitable for everyone bringing together mind and body, allowing clients to work safely and effectively. All exercises are built around 8 principles of:-

- Relaxation
- Co-ordination
- Centring
- Stamina
- Concentration
- Breathing
- Flowing movements.

Body Control Pilates has evolved from the work of Joseph Pilates. Body Control Pilates created a series of exercises that teach movement skills needed to gain maximum benefit from Pilates. Through good movement patterns individuals are encouraged to progress towards more advanced work. Classes are kept small so that personal attention can be given, and where appropriate alternative exercises can be suggested. Matwork classes are not only fun, but designed to improve posture, strength, flexibility, tone, and can help to relieve back pain and other muscular pain as well as stress. Small equipment such as bands, toning circles and balls are used to challenge and to help provide clients with more awareness of their body.

In January we restarted our Wednesday morning class which like all classes have been well attended. To celebrate and to give people a chance to chat we enjoyed having tea and cake after one of our classes.



Classes are held at **Bucklebury Memorial Hall** in **The Oak Rooms** on **Monday at 8.30pm**, **Wednesday at 9.30 am**, **6.30pm** and at **7.45pm**.

Classes are also held at **The Fisher Rooms** in **Cold Ash** on **Monday at 7.00pm**.

If interested in attending a class please contact Mel at [meriel58@yahoo.com](mailto:meriel58@yahoo.com)



## Halls

### The Victory Room



#### YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE VICTORY ROOM PROJECT

As reported in the last issue of the Oaks, we now have planning permission for a new Victory Room with all its improvements. The current building is now a century old and, like many antiques, is sadly showing its age. We want a hall fit for the next 100 years which can continue to serve the multigenerational needs of the parish, from children's parties, scouts, cubs, guides and junior football to art classes, adult parties, church and community events, and as the local polling station. The Trustee board want the facility to remain very much a Parish one and have a strict lettings policy which will prevent its overuse and becoming a nuisance to local residents. At the same time, we want it to be a more attractive venue for playing sport as it is adjacent to the only useable playing field.

Investment is needed now to secure the long-term future of the Victory Room and keep a pipeline of sporting cultural and social activity alive in the community - all within the confines of a building that is energy-efficient and future-proofed. Our fundraising is now starting in earnest. The trustee board has developed a marketing package to present to possible funders, and has also been successful in registering with the Good Exchange, which is run by the Greenham Common Trust.

We would like to ask you as Bucklebury parishioners who are most likely to use a new improved facility, to make a donation, however small, to show your support for our project. Raising half a million pounds is no easy task and we need all the help we can get. I or any of the trustees would welcome an opportunity to take you through our plans face to face or on the phone. You can also look at our plans on the parish website.

If you would like to contribute, please either send a cheque (payable to "The Victory Room") to me. In order for us to claim Gift Aid please supply your name and address if you are a UK taxpayer. You can also donate through the Good Exchange website- you can access it as The Victory Room or on number 11581. If you donate this way, your contribution may be matched by other funders.

SAVE THE DATE : SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER - FOR NEXT BUCKLEBURY BEERFEST

It is the main source of funds for the Victory Room each year and has now become even more important for us as we gather in funds for the new hall. Any help you can provide before, during and after the event would be much appreciated.

**John Clarke - Chair of the Trustees**  
**The Old School House**  
**Bucklebury Village**  
**RG7 6PN**  
**01189712768**  
[john.clarke@live.co.uk](mailto:john.clarke@live.co.uk)

## Country Life

### Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group

Another busy winter's work over. Our own volunteers have tidied up lots of corners, three visits from the Tuesday Group from WBCS have done great works (and had some large bonfires!) and a new group "Green Gym" have come twice.

Contractors have cut gorse on the Upper Common and cut heather on the Lower Common.

The commons are in great shape; all we need now is some rain, it's been a dry autumn and winter, some good spring rain will see everything "blooming".

Please come and walk on our beautiful commons.

Tim Culley.



## History of Bucklebury Cecilia Millson

*After the war, when she and her husband lived in Bucklebury, Mrs. Cecilia Millson produced some historical scenes for the Women's Institute. In her research she had to delve into the history of Bucklebury and in doing so she became interested personally. Mrs. Millson kindly agreed to write a series of articles on Bucklebury for the magazine, and these were first printed cir 1973.*

### PART VI - BUCKLEBURY REVELS

Winchcombe Henry Hartley died in 1794, leaving a young son of seven years to succeed him as Lord of the Manor. Eventually Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley took Holy Orders, and when the Reverend Richard Coxe died in 1819, he became Vicar of Bucklebury.

Mr. Hartley wrote in his diary in 1815: "*July 31<sup>st</sup>. Revel. Very unwell owing to unkind letter from that ungrateful old villain R. Coxe.*"

The revel to which he referred was the Chapel Row Revel which took place annually on the first Monday after St. Anne's Day (July 26<sup>th</sup>), when Bucklebury became the centre of backwording and prize fighting contests, pony racing, cattle dealing, and all the excitement of a country fair.

Booths and stalls were set up under the watchful eyes of Robert Bedding and Richard Green, who collected the necessary dues of five shillings from the stall holders. Robert Bedding was easy to find. He lived, with his large family, at Avenue Cottage, and he wore a white coat and chimney pot hat, indoors and out of doors. He was well known as a land measurer, horse doctor, herbalist and, if anyone sought protection from smallpox, he was quite willing to inoculate them. Like Mr. Hartley, he kept a diary and recorded: "*1818. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. The Butt was planted with Firs. The trees were cut down the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. in the night*". Problems of today were not unknown in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. (The "Butt" was the stage for the backwording contests.)

The Lord of the Manor presented a yearly prize of five guineas, and subscriptions were collected to pay for the following prizes, at the Revel: a gold-laced hat, valued at a guinea and a half, for old gamesters (men who won or shared a first prize at any revel), and one valued at twenty-five shillings for young gamesters; a hat with a blue cockade, an inferior hat with a white cockade, and a still more inferior hat with no cockade. To compete for these prizes the backsworders had their left arms strapped to their sides and swung their cudgels with their right arms. To strike an opponent on the face was disallowed, the top of the head being the target. Champion Blackford of Swindon broke fourteen heads in succession. In 1839 Bedding noted in his diary: "*Rained on Chapel Row Fair Monday. No Backswording done that day.*" Perhaps relief was felt by those who disapproved of the sport. Injuries occurred, sometimes fatal, and backwording was eventually suppressed in Bucklebury.

## West Berkshire Countryside Society

Event Diary April – June 2017

*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.*

**Thu-01-Jun 7.00 pm Society AGM.**  
**The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury Village Hall.**

**Tue-20-Jun 10.00 am**  
**Grimsbury Castle, Hermitage SU511 723.**  
Clearing invasive rhododendron from this ancient hill fort.  
Parking near the Estate house at the castle - by the interpretation board.

**Wed-21-June 8.30 – 10.00pm**  
**Bucklebury Common – Nightjars and glow worms at dusk SU 550 688**  
Tim Culley leads an evening walk looking at heathland restoration and some of the specialized wildlife associated with this habitat. Meet at Angel's Corner, by the Scout Hut on Bucklebury Common at 8.30pm. Grid ref: SU 550 688.

**Tue-27-Jun 10.00 am**  
**Kings Copse Bradfield Southend. SU 579 707**  
Bracken bashing on this SSSI. Park opposite the bungalow just before King's Copse House. Accessed via Jennets Hill.

### Sports

## Bucklebury Tennis Club

### ACTION IS UNDER WAY!

The Berkshire league is already in progress and the Newbury & District leagues start close to the time of this publication. We have entered 10 different teams in the various divisions/competitions for Men's, Ladies', and Mixed matches. This is the most we have tried to muster, so come along and put your name down to help Bucklebury to feature in the top rankings.

### DRILLS & SKILLS

With the start of the league matches we have moved our Drills & Skills sessions to an earlier time Thursday evenings. We have a one hour slot, between 5.15 to 6.15 p.m. The session finishes in time to allow any planned league matches to start a 6.30 p.m.

### JUNIOR & TEENS COACHING

Starting in April we are running a series of coaching sessions for our younger players. We have two sessions for **Under 12s** on Mondays and Wednesdays, and **TEENS** at a later time on Wednesdays. The plan is to hold 10 sessions for each group within the school term time, but excluding half term/public holidays. Coaching is under our qualified coach Damian Lane, but enquiries should in the first instance be directed to Karen Pegg, who has volunteered to coordinate the arrangements. There is a fee charged for this programme of £6 per hour for non-members, discounted for members.

Contact Karen e-mail [kppegg61@gmail.com](mailto:kppegg61@gmail.com)

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP

This is very easy to establish either through our Club website or by direct contact with the undersigned. Everyone is most welcome and our aim is to keep the facilities available to all local residents and friends. Visitors have access to the courts for a small contribution towards our ongoing maintenance costs.

**COME ALONG AND TRY IT OUT?**  
**And perhaps JOIN the Club.**

**All enquiries to:**  
**Mike James e-mail [m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk) or Phone 01189712285**

## FC Cougars



FC Cougars, established in 2013, is a fun and friendly local football club affiliated with the Berks and Bucks FA. We currently have six teams ranging from under 7s to under 12s with children from Thatcham, Bucklebury and surrounding areas. Our younger age groups play their home matches at Bucklebury Recreation Ground on Sunday, playing in the Reading and West Berkshire League. We also run midweek and Saturday training sessions at other locations.

The younger teams play mainly development games, mixed with competitive events. Our Under 8 and Under 9 teams have both been runners up in recent events, while our Under 11 Colts team were winners of their winter trophy competition. Our Under 12 side are now competing in the highest division of the Peter Houseman Youth League.

During the winter there was less activity on Sunday mornings at the Victory Room in Bucklebury, as some of our age groups

tried out Futsal at Kennet, Northcroft and other venues between Newbury and Reading. Futsal is a modified form of football played indoors, and the children will be following in the footsteps of players such as Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Messi and Neymar who all learned their skills while playing Futsal in their youth!

We are committed to the FA Respect campaign, and the spirit of the club has been very well demonstrated by our Under 11 Colts team, who have now won the League Fair Play award for two consecutive seasons.

Our aim is for all children, regardless of ability, to enjoy playing and progressing as footballers in a fun, safe and organised environment. Our coaches and team managers are all DBS checked and our coaches are FA qualified at Level 1 or higher.

Some of our age groups will be looking for new players to join in the summer. If you might be interested, or to find our more details on the club please visit our website at [www.fccougars.com](http://www.fccougars.com) or contact the club secretary, Adam Bigwood, on [adam@fccougars.com](mailto:adam@fccougars.com).

## Bucklebury Badminton Club

With the season drawing to an exciting close, it's looking possible that our ladies', men's B and mixed A could all go up a division. There are still matches to be played so anything could happen.

The club also had successes in the district level doubles tournament in January where local girls Sarah Lewington and Olivia May came second, and Usha Moran and her partner finished third.



Olivia May and Sarah Lewington

By the time of publication, all matches will be over and we will be relaxing in our summer club. It's a good time to come for a visit if you think you might like to join us. You can come as a

visitor for up to six times during which time you will receive advice and free coaching from our qualified coach, Colin Shurey.

We are a friendly village club and any players are welcome, whether you're a beginner, haven't played for a while or are a more experienced player. We would particularly welcome ladies who might like the chance to play in division one next season.

For more information check our website or Facebook. If you prefer you can phone for a chat before you come along.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD  
DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m. September to mid July  
COST: £5 for visitors (deducted from subscription which is £110 per annum **pro rata**. £50 for students)  
CONTACT: Margaret Neville 01635 873811  
[margaretnev@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaretnev@yahoo.co.uk)  
<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

## Contributions

Material to appear in The Oaks should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (e.g. MS Word), attached to an e-mail and sent to "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 February, May and October

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

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(Printed by The Alpha Xperience, Newbury

Telephone 01635 523240)

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

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# Parish Diary Dates

<b>May</b>		
4th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am or 10.30am Victory Room, Bucklebury
8th	Thames Water Dropin Session	3.30pm - 6.30pm The Oak Room
8th	Thames Water meeting	6.30pm - 7.30pm The Oak Room
8th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
9th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.45pm The Oak Room
11th	Horticultural Society	6.30pm Cottismore Garden Centre
15th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
19th	Annual Parish Assembly	7.30pm The Memorial Hall
22nd	Planning Committee	8.00pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall

<b>June</b>		
1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am or 10.30am The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
1st	West Berkshire Countryside Society	7.00pm The Oak Room
5th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
12th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
13th	Tuesday Ladies Club	TBC 53, Broad Lane
17th	Horticultural Society	9.30am Trip
19th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
21st	West Berkshire Countryside Society	8.30pm - 10.00pm Angel's Corner (SU550688)
26th	Planning Committee	8.00pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall

<b>July</b>		
3rd	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am or 10.30am The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
10th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
11th	Tuesday Ladies Club	TBA TBA
17th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
24th	Planning Committee	8.00pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall

<b>August</b>		
3rd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am or 10.30am Bucklebury Farm Park
7th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
14th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
21st	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room

<b>September</b>		
4th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
7th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am Control Tower, Greenham Common
10th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.45pm The Oak Room.
11th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
18th	Mah-jong	2.00pm The Oak Room
25th	Planning Committee	8.00pm The Committee Room, The Memorial Hall
30th	Bucklebury Beer Fest	TBA Recreation Ground/Victory Room.