

The Oaks



Inside this issue:

Bucklebury Parish Council	
Planning	2
Bucklebury Cemetery	2
Church Repairs	2
Cycle Paths	3
Red Telephone Kiosk	3
Grundon Incinerator	4
Commons Update	5
Comm's/Signposting	6
Greening Campaign	6
WB Councillors	7
Family	8
In the Area	
Bucklebury Tea Company	12
Painting Classes	12
Thatcham Film Club	12
Organisations	
Young Farmers	13
Events Committee	14
Women's Group	15
Murder Mystery Evening	17
Halls	18
Beerfest	18
Sports	20
Country Life	22
Contributions	23
Parish Diary	24
Parish Council Chairman Wynne Frankum	
Parish Council Clerk Helen Pratt	
The Oaks Editorial Team Editor: Wynne Frankum Copy secretary: Lindy Clarke Typography: Malcolm Storey Proofing: Christine Ewing	

Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

This May, after many years, Durran Heslop stood down from the Parish Council. Unfortunately he was finding juggling work, commuting and three young children left him little time for parish work. He was a most valuable member of the Council and will be sorely missed. Fortunately he will generously continue to give his opinion when asked. Since he knows the Slade and its surroundings extremely well, this is invaluable.

Our new Parish Councillor, Andrew Stott, is very ably master-minding our opposition to the Waste Incinerator which Grundon wish to build at Curridge.

I hope many of you attended the meeting at the beginning of August to find out more.

Our Parish Plan Refresh has been signed off by WBC; Peter Brook and his team have worked extremely hard to produce this document. It is taken very seriously by WBC, because it reflects the views of all in the parish. WBC commended the obvious dedication and commitment which had been brought to the document and noted that the agreed timetable had been adhered to - not too common an occurrence apparently! So a huge thank you is due to Peter and his team.

Representatives from Thames Water were invited to attend the Annual Assembly in May to discuss the water pipe on Harts Hill. They sent three guest speakers who assured us that the leaks were due to changes in pressure. It is hoped that a new pressure regulation vessel will solve the problems, but if it does not a new pipe will be inserted through the existing one. Apparently there is ample capacity for this to take place.

The Tea in the Park to celebrate the Royal Wedding was agreed to have been a huge success. Our thanks go to Rupert Hartley Russell who so generously let the event be held at the Farm Park and supplied a team of his willing work force. The Bucklebury Events Committee did an amazing job in less than six months. That sort of event

would normally, of course, take at least a year to plan. Our two pubs also did us proud and both publicans worked unstintingly to make the day the huge success it was. Bucklebury was definitely the place to be!

The commemorative mugs have proved very popular and we hope the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge enjoy using the ones given to them by the parish! The Newbury Museum also requested one of each size and they have been presented to them for their collection.

The three hay meadows behind the Cottage Inn will shortly be transferred to the ownership of the Parish. At the moment the legal documents are being discussed and drawn up.

The Bucklebury History Day organised by the History Society was a most impressive event and held in a most delightful setting. A large number of people visited the event from near and far.

Lindy Clarke has assembled a group of enthusiastic people to consider the future of the old telephone box at Chapel Row, which is now in the ownership of the Parish Council. We look forward to their conclusions! We were most fortunate that BT agreed to paint it for the Royal Wedding, so it looks very smart!

The Post Office in All Saints Church room continues to be well supported and the post mistress dealt magnificently with the huge number of commemorative mugs that had to be posted not only to the UK, but all round the globe!

The Parish Council is now considering how best we might celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics next year. We would welcome your ideas!

The Parish Council is here to serve you all. Remember you may attend any meeting, and if you wish to raise an issue, contact the clerk.

Wynne Frankum Chairman BPC

Parish Council Planning

The Planning Committee continues to meet on every fourth Monday of the month at 8pm in The Victory Room. Planning is also taken at the monthly Parish Council meetings. Planning applicants, and those with an interest in current applications, are very welcome to attend these meetings.

Two points are worth highlighting from recent applications. We have seen cases of applications for over-development out of proportion and inappropriate to the street scene. If you are planning a large development or extension please talk to the Council as well as WBC's planning officers. Advice on what would be acceptable in planning terms can help ensure there is no wasted effort and delay.

Numerous applications do not address the issue of external lighting which can be obtrusive and an annoyance to neighbours. We look to see if proposed external lighting is subdued and activated by motion detectors.

Finally, it is worth emphasising that while councillors are happy to give informal pre-application advice this precludes the councillor who has given the advice being further involved with the application.

Barry Dickens Chair BPC Planning Committee

Parish Council Matters Arising



Bucklebury Cemetery

Mrs Gill Coates has very generously offered to do the valuable job of keeping the cemetery tidy. We know that many families live too far away to tend their families' graves themselves, so Gill will keep an eye on things and

remove dead flowers, plants and wreaths when necessary. She will also regularly put out the bins. C.R. Landscapes continue with their excellent work of maintaining the grounds.

We will shortly be allocating graves in the cleared part of the cemetery. You may remember the decision was taken to make this a lawn cemetery. Because so many people now move away from the Parish, it was decided that an easily maintained area would have significant advantages for everybody. The graves will not be raised, so can easily be mown and only one pot of

flowers or plant may be placed on each grave. People can rest assured that their families graves will be kept trim.

Helen Pratt has been busy bringing herself up to date with the rules and regulations of running a cemetery. Please go to her with any queries.

We will have our Candlelit Carols again on Monday 19th December from 6pm-7pm. We hope you can join us.

Wynne Frankum Chairman of the Burial Board, BPC

Repairs to the Parish Church

Two months ago I wrote in the Parish Magazine a short article warning that repairs were about to start on the tower of St Mary's. This generated some interest and it was felt that a follow up would also be of interest. So just to recap; we are obliged to have our church buildings inspected by a qualified architect every 5 years to make certain that essential maintenance is carried out and, particularly in older buildings, that there is no deterioration in the general condition. As St Mary's is Grade 1* listed we have a very definite duty to keep this fine medieval building in as sound a condition as possible. During the architect's inspection we found that the lead covering the tower had deteriorated (lead does 'wear out' through chemical reaction with rain) and had become very thin; we also suspected that the central weather vane made of oak wood was in a poor condition. So that is the background to the essential repairs. Sadly when the covering was removed from the tower and the weather vane was examined carefully we found that the task was much greater than we originally imagined. Firstly the weather vane was not vertical as two of the four supporting legs were quite rotten. In fact the prevailing SW wind had blown the vane out of true. In the distant past all four legs had been partially covered in lead, but as no recess had been cut into the wood, water had run down the grain of the wood, and seeped under the lead and eventually caused rot. The two legs, that were recessed into the central east-west beam that held the roof of the tower, had not only themselves rotted but had caused severe damage to the beam – we were seriously concerned that this oak beam, which is about a foot square, might have to be replaced as well. Each 'foot' had been attached to the roof members with wonderful hand-forged iron nails about a foot long which may have been forged in the village foundry. Now that most of the work has been completed by craftsmen in lead and wood using English oak where possible, I hope that we will not have to do it again for a great many years. I do not have any records as to when it was last carried out but other than 'band-aid' we think that it would have been in the early 1900's. On reflection if this repair had not been done this year it is quite likely that the weather vane would have been blown over in the next few years – so a stitch in time etc.

J M Tennant

Improving cycle paths in Bucklebury

We are a small working group looking at the potential for improving utility cycling within the Parish and to key destinations nearby. We now have a strategic plan of what we would like to achieve in order to create a network of safe and pleasant cycle routes, some using the quiet lanes and others making use of our existing bridleways and by-ways.

Using the Parish Questionnaire responses, we have identified the route from Chapel Row to Upper Bucklebury as our top priority; our aim is to upgrade the surface of the path so that it is suitable for cycling by those of all capabilities and ages and without requiring a shower when you get to your destination!

We have had considerable interest from West Berkshire Council and the route is now mentioned in their active travel strategy. We have had a visit from Elaine Cox, the Rights of Way Manager who has advised us on resurfacing options and we are currently in the process of applying for funding from various sources but of course it is always difficult to secure funding especially at these difficult times. But we live in hope!

The pictures give you an idea of what we are trying to achieve. I hope this shows that we are not in the business of creating a network of tarmac paths across the Common.

Do get in touch if you want to know more.

Emma Spriggs, Tim Cooper, David Moss, Lindy Clarke

Red Telephone Kiosk Chapel Row

The parish council has now formally adopted the kiosk from BT, for the princely sum of £1. We were lucky that BT saw fit to repaint it (after a gentle nudge from our parish clerk) before the royal wedding, so it is already looking a lot smarter. The telephone apparatus has all been removed, and it is now ready for its new lease of life!

A small community working group has recently met and discussed the possibilities for its future. We came up with over a dozen ideas, and decided to trial it first as a place to exchange books/DVDs/videos/magazines, and also possibly local produce, plants and seeds. We will be erecting shelving and deciding on some guidelines for its use.

We hope to have a grand opening so keep your eyes peeled for signs at Chapel Row advertising the opening, and start sorting your spare books etc!

Lindy Clarke Parish Councillor

0118 9712768, johnlindyclarke@hotmail.com



We are hoping to change this...

... to something more like this.





The West Berkshire Against Grundon Incinerator (WBAGI) Campaign Group.

A **350,000 tonnes a year waste incinerator** is proposed to be built by Grundon at Old Kiln Farm in Curridge, within a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is approximately **4 miles from Bucklebury**.

West Berkshire District Council has no requirement for this massive incinerator and Grundon consistently fail to deny that a high proportion of the imported waste could originate from distant conurbations, involving approximately **400 heavy lorry movements a day**.

Why do you need to get involved? Should Grundon gain planning permission for this waste incinerator, **No AONB or greenfield site would be safe from potential industrial development** as a precedent would already have been set. That means any green areas you can see that are near where you live would be at risk of industrial development. **It would dramatically change the nature and desirability of the area forever.** Once developed, the site would never be returned to agriculture and the plant would dominate the skyline with its **2 x 75m high chimneys and 3 x 45m high buildings**. There is currently nothing like it in type or height in the area and as such it would be seen from miles around. Whilst we are assured that the technology in these facilities today is sound, we all know that what was an acceptable level of risk 10 years ago is not acceptable today, but it would be too late in 10 years time to find it has had a tragic **impact on the health of our families**.

Your Bucklebury WBAGI Village Representative is Andrew Stott and he can be contacted at asg.stott@virgin.net or on 07733271709. WBAGI has a website www.wbagi.org where you can sign up for information updates and sign an online petition and much much more. WBAGI can also be contacted at enquiries@wbagi.org. **Please act now before it is too late!**

Could this be the future for our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?



Artist's impression: the Colnbrook incinerator superimposed on the proposed site of the Grundon Incinerator at Curridge to demonstrate how it might look

Please go now to www.wbagi.org to sign the online petition to help stop this ever happening!

Andrew Stott B.P.C.

Review of Housing Need in Bucklebury

The Parish Council will be conducting a parish-wide housing needs survey that will be circulated to all households in the January edition of *The Oaks*. Please keep an eye out for your copy and make sure you complete and return it. Findings will help the Parish Council to determine whether it should take any actions to consider rural exception site development to meet local housing needs in the future.

Concern over the lack of affordable homes in Bucklebury was first raised in the recent Parish Plan Refresh with an action to conduct a housing need survey to identify whether there is a need for affordable homes for local people in the village.

Arlene Kersley, the Rural Housing Enabler for Berkshire based at CCB (the Community Council for Berkshire) will conduct the survey on behalf of the Parish Council. A full report of the findings will be presented to the Parish Council in March 2012.

For further information please contact Arlene Kersley at CCB on 0118 961 2000.

Arlene Kersley Rural Housing Enabler for Berkshire
CCB, Abbey House, 1650 Arlington Business Park
Theale, Reading, RG7 4SA

Tel: 0118 961 2000

Email: arlene.kersley@ccberks.org.uk

Bucklebury Common Update

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

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

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

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

We have had a busy period trying to prevent 4x4 access to the areas at the top of Holly Lane and the area above the Fishponds. Roger Molloy from Absolutely Tree and Hedge Care kindly donated some time to fell some dead trees which have now been buried as part of the bunds in these areas. We have had an 8 ton 360 excavator and JCB for 3 days on site, it looks a mess now but the natural habitat will quickly re-grow and the pond area will look particularly good. We have tried to maintain tracks for cyclists and horse-riders – apologies if we have blocked any particular favourites but there are a lot of other tracks to use.

We've also made some temporary repairs to the byways to try and remove some of the large puddles near the cross-roads.

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

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

As a keen cyclist around the Common can I please remind all cyclists and parents with children who cycle that the evenings will start drawing in soon. Please check cycles have at least a rear light – especially if your children are riding to/from the BMX track.

Steve Beeson BPC 01635 862918

stevebeeson@yahoo.co.uk

Communications/signposting

PARISHIONERS EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

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

BUCKLEBURY BUSINESS LIST

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

BUCKLEBURY CLUBS/ORGANISATIONS

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

WELCOME PACK

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

PARISH WEBSITE

www.buckleburyparish.org

The Oaks

Following the results from the Parish Plan Refresh, *The Oaks* editorial team (Wynne Frankum, Helen Pratt, Malcolm Storey, Lindy Clarke and Chris Ewing) held a meeting to discuss parishioners' comments. We were very pleased to have so many positive comments about *The Oaks*, and we have taken on board various suggestions for future issues.

We discussed the option of having advertisements in *The Oaks* (a specific question in the questionnaire), which would have brought in revenue but made it considerably longer. It was decided not to do this but rather to pursue the idea of having a separate list of local businesses, which, when ready, will be published on the Parish website. Hopefully this will ensure that all local businesses get a mention rather than just those willing to pay. Also the church magazine already carries adverts and is produced every month and delivered to every household.

We also considered the suggestion of making the magazine quarterly, but for various reasons (the summer break, the extra demand on volunteers' time, and the difficulty of getting contributions in four times a year instead of three) the team decided to stay with the current set-up and the same publishing dates.

The editorial team hopes you continue to enjoy *The Oaks* and is always happy to listen to further suggestions. We would like to record our gratitude to all the contributors who put in so much time and effort writing articles.

Lindy Clarke B.P.C.

Greening is coming!

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



The Greening Campaign will challenge us to take on small changes in our way of living that will add up to a significant difference by reducing our energy bills and CO₂ emissions.

These aren't big changes. For example, if every household in Bucklebury turned their thermostat down by 1C° over the course of a year that would save

emitting 325,000 kg of carbon. That's what the Campaign is about, showing the difference we can make by working together as a community.

To find out more come to the Public Meeting on Wednesday September 28th in the Oak Room of the Memorial Hall starting at 7.45pm. We shall choose the energy saving challenges for our community to take up after the Launch Meeting early next year.

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

Peter Brook Acting Chair Greening Bucklebury
0118 9712045, phrjbroom@gmail.com



PUBLIC MEETING

7.45pm

**Wednesday 28th September
in the Oak Room**

**Come and hear about the campaign,
and choose simple steps to take
which save energy, CO₂ and money.**

All welcome!

**Together the people of Bucklebury
can make a difference!**

The Hockett Field

This summer the field was particularly good for butterflies. There was the scene some of us only remember from our dim and distant childhoods! Clouds of butterflies! In less than 5 minutes, 5 different species were seen., common blue, marbled white, meadow brown, large skipper and small heath.

Bob West will cut the hay as usual and this annual cutting is obviously paying off and the hay looked very good this year. We are so lucky to have this increasingly rare habitat in our parish.

Last summer Bob must have struggled to negotiate the overgrown gate so Frank Haywood and Mark Brown from the Pang Valley Volunteers gave up a morning to cut the undergrowth that had encompassed half of it!

It was agreed, following a walk round the perimeter, that during the winter, the Pang Valley Volunteers would cut the hedges. Some young birches that are growing too close to the oaks will be removed. They will also level the old BMX track and remove the weeds that were introduced when soil was brought in.

Willie Hartley Russell and Dick Greenaway have looked at the ancient oak that marks the boundary to check it has enough room. Dick suggested a few birches on the common to the north could be removed to give the tree more light. Other than that it looks very healthy.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from all these people so generously giving up their time and expertise and we thank them all.

Wynne Frankum Chair, Bucklebury Parish Council

West Berks District Councillors

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

GRAHAM PASK

Tel/Fax 01635-864023

Email:

gpask@westberks.gov.uk

QUENTIN WEBB

Tel/Fax 01635-201435

Email:

qwebb@westberks.gov.uk

WBC Councillors' Report

Thank you to all who supported us with your votes in May, it is a pleasure to represent Bucklebury on the District Council for another four years and, as always, if there are any issues you wish to raise with us please contact either of us to see if we can help.

We continue to protect front-line services wherever we can even though there will be further pressures on the Council's finances in the forthcoming year, we have already started the process to set next year's budget by looking at even more efficiency savings. One area we have been concentrating on is the reduction of office space (and a whole building at Faraday Road!). This has been made possible by encouraging as many staff to work from home two days a week supported by all the technology that makes this possible and I doubt anyone wishing to contact a Council officer would notice any change in response times etc. The resulting savings however allow us to keep Council tax as low as possible!

Our planning service has suffered this year from losing a small number of experienced staff who have left for maternity leave or promotion. As planning officers are in short supply nationally we have not been able to fill these vacancies as quickly as we would have wished but every effort is being made to recruit to these posts as soon as possible. Normally the delay is in registering the application, but if you feel a planning application is not progressing as quickly as it used to, please let us know.

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb

West Berks Community Information

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

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

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

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

Family

Bucklebury Toddler Group

We have had a great summer and made the most of the sunshine, setting up outside for the majority of this term. This has allowed us to enjoy drawing chalk pictures on the tarmac, having fun with bubbles, messing around with foam and playing outdoor games. Thank you to all those who donated Sainsbury vouchers. We look forward to some new equipment

Fun with Foam

Three of our younger toddlers worn out after a good morning's play.

arriving in the Autumn.

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

Cara Shearn

Bucklebury Pre-School

The spring and summer terms have been busy for children and staff alike. The term started particularly well with Bucklebury pre-school being identified as the setting for other preschools and nurseries to visit and learn best practice with regard to the new child development records that have been

introduced by West Berkshire council. The staff have worked incredibly hard to achieve this and were told they had produced consistently outstanding documentation.

No surprises that the theme for the spring term was Princes, Princesses and the Royal wedding. The children had a great time playing on the Windsor Castle climbing frame and having a wedding breakfast at Buckingham Palace. Of course with any wedding there is much preparation required and the children were busy with among other things: dressing up for the occasion, measuring their feet in Cinderella's shoe shop, making wedding cakes out of chocolate play dough, union jack flags to wave and washing the ponies that would pull the carriage with shampoo and conditioner.

This term the theme has been: people who help us. Our thanks goes to all those parents who came in to talk to the children which included a nurse, midwife, pilot and teacher. The children (and staff) were even fortunate enough to have

a visit from our local fire brigade!

You may have noticed two additional pieces of equipment outside the memorial hall. The children have had a great time enjoying our new sand pit. We also now have a small vegetable bed where the Little Acorns group (those aged 4 and over) have successfully grown tomatoes, beans, pumpkins and peppers.

Our summer sports day and fete were a great success. Having poured down all night it stopped raining just in time for us to hold the event outside and the children enjoyed running and dressing up races with stickers and medals awarded to all. This was followed by our summer fete with loads of stalls offering everything from face-painting to kids craft and hoopla to tombolas. Our thanks goes to Georgina Woods and her team for organising the event as well as all those who donated and baked to ensure the fete was such a success raising an impressive £600.

We were not so lucky with the weather when it came to our annual visit to Beale Park. Unfortunately that was the day it chose to rain from the beginning to end. There was nothing for it but to cancel. Luckily on our second attempt it stayed dry and parents and children alike had a really great day.

This term we say a fond farewell to Claire and Phyllis. We will all miss them and wish Claire well in her new job and Phyllis in her move back to Scotland. We also say goodbye to twenty seven pupils who leave us this term to continue their education in Bucklebury, Woolhampton, St Finian's, Spurcroft and Francis Bailey schools. We wish each and every one of them great happiness in their new school and hope they will come back and visit us soon.

Cara Shearn Bucklebury Preschool committee

1st Bucklebury Brownies is under new management!

We've recently said goodbye to Tanya (Ratty) and we would like to wish her well.

From September 2011 Bucklebury Brownies is being run by Jo Livings - the Brownies meet every Friday during term time, 6.30 pm- 8pm at the memorial hall.

We are still looking for additional help with the unit and are also looking to increase the numbers within the unit, if you know anyone who is interested please contact Jo (Butterfly) on email joanne.boswell@btinternet.com.

The pack are looking forward to lots of fun activities this coming term, including camp, a sports day, a talent competition and an evening based on recycling to name a few!

Jo Boswell

1st Bucklebury Guides



Since the last edition of *The Oaks* the Guides have been very busy. In April we joined the Royal Wedding celebrations at

Bucklebury Farm Park where the Guides helped sell raffle tickets and picked up litter. We all had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed community spirit evident throughout the afternoon. As mentioned during the last edition of *The Oaks*, the girls had been working towards a special royal wedding badge. On the day we took along a display board of some of the things they had done towards this, including dress designs, menus and flower arrangements, and the display ended up on the local news!

In May, Bucklebury Guides entered two teams into the Division netball tournament held at Theale Green School. This is usually an annual event, but with so much going on last year, due to the centenary celebrations, this was the first time that Bucklebury Guides has been able to enter since we opened in September 2009. The girls all played fantastically well and the Bucklebury A team ended up getting to the semi-finals.

During the normal meetings the girls have been doing various activities chosen by themselves such as their Go For It challenges, crafts and various games. Also we have done a number of badges as a Unit. The first of these was the Aim Hi badge which covers health and wellbeing, bullying issues, body image and self perception. This was a chance for the girls to share their experiences and talk about how to handle

Guide Activity day low rope course

Guides Netball A team

various situations in a frank and friendly manner, which for some was quite liberating. The next badge undertaken was the Agility badge. This included learning how to warm up before exercise before trying various skipping moves, making up an aerobics routine to Lady Gaga, and doing plenty of running around activities. Most recently the girls have completed their Traditions of Guiding badge. This not only covers the more traditional aspects of Guides, but also activities that were deemed important for young ladies to learn in the early 20th Century, for example, how to lay a table correctly including how to fold napkins.

The weather during the summer has allowed us to get out and about a little more, including a trip to Thirtover Place in Cold Ash, for games and a traditional campfire. Of course marshmallows and dampers were on the menu, along with a campfire song or two! We also were fortunate to attend a Division Guide activity day in June, where the girls got to take part in many activities including archery, low ropes, inflatable obstacle course and wall climbing to name a few. This term we

also asked the girls to 'try something new' and enter exhibits into the Horticultural Society summer show. We ended up with quite a few entering the 10-14 year age group classes and some were delighted to be placed too!

Girl Guiding in the local area has exploded in popularity in the past year or so and spaces at Guides are getting limited. It is never too early to put your daughter's name down on our waiting list to ensure that a place is available when they are 10-11 years of age. Also, if you are an adult who would like to help out at either Brownies or Guides we would love to hear from you. Whether you can commit to every week, or just once a month, every helper is appreciated. So if you want more information about Guides get in touch with us now.

Claire Powers

West Berks Ballet School



Summer term for our ballet students was full of excitement! At half-term we performed our new version of *The Nutcracker* at Arlington Arts Centre. To quote the Newbury Weekly News 'Ballet School pulls out a plum!' The dancers had a wonderful week, the families were so supportive, and the audience was wildly enthusiastic. It made the months of work on the part of all concerned so worthwhile. It has also been very rewarding for the teachers to see how much confidence the pupils have gained and how their dancing has progressed from their experience on stage.

Dominic Rocca as the magician Drosselmeyer greets the dancers

Tegan Ford as Clara & Hannah Jackson as The Nutcracker arrive in the Kingdom of the Snow to meet the Snow Queen,
Jemma Greener

The term ended with more good news. Seven boys and girls were successful in their June auditions for a year of very special ballet classes at the Rambert School in Twickenham. Over 200 dancers from all over the South of England compete for these cherished places and WBBS is fortunate to have these talented pupils.

Juliette Brennan-Ruiz was awarded a further year's scholarship with the Cecchetti Society in London and Tegan Ford had the greatest surprise when she heard that she was to be offered a further year as a Senior Scholar. Tegan is already 16 and thought that she might have to give up her Saturday classes and leave the friends she has made over the past 3 years.

This year the Cecchetti Society played host to the International Cecchetti Ballet Competition for young dancers from all over the world. The event was held in the spectacular Lowry Theatre in Salford and delegates and competitors came from Australia, America, Japan, most of the European countries and, of course, our own very talented students from Great Britain.

It was a glittering occasion and like many TV competitions, the audience was allowed to vote for their favourites too. A beautiful dancer from Australia was the well deserved winner and she went home with a large cheque and even larger smile.

For me the day was made particularly memorable watching Juliette & Tegan dance so professionally on the Lowry stage. Both girls had attended a week of summer school in Salford and both agreed they had learnt so much from their classes.

So now to our Autumn Term, which will conclude with annual exams and a wonderful outing to *South Pacific* in Oxford.



Don't forget to book your tickets to see our own Claire in *Our House* at the Corn Exchange from 5th-8th October!

Jane Scholl & Claire Bowden

www.wbbs.org

In the Area

Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC5233 Jason Murphy Neighbourhood Specialist Officer

Thatcham Police Station

20 Chapel Street, Thatcham, RG18 4LQ

Non Emergency no: 0845 8505505

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

Staying Safe This Autumn

As the clocks go back and the nights start drawing in here are some tips for staying safe and crime free from your Safer Communities Partnership:-

- Make your home appear occupied. Use timer switches to turn lights and/or a radio on.
- Make sure bolts and locks on outbuildings are good enough to resist an opportunist thief.
- Check any outdoor lighting is in working order.
- Prickly plants will deter possible intruders.
- Remove all valuables from your parked vehicles.

The Safer Communities Partnership bringing together the police, council, fire service and other agencies.

Bucklebury Tea Company

A new tea company has been launched right in the heart of Bucklebury.

Upper Bucklebury resident Paul Crutchley and his partner Clair North, created *The Bucklebury Tea Company Ltd*, following a visit to a tea shop one spring afternoon. The pair share a mutual love of tea; they feel that tea drinking is an important part of English heritage and that traditional, high quality leaf tea may have been forgotten, overlooked or is just not easily accessible.

Paul and Clair really wish to share their passion for high quality tea and to provide a truly local service, creating their own unique brands that are of stunning quality, highly satisfying and really lovely to look at.



The company's range of teas

The Bucklebury Tea Company has already created four bespoke blends and offer both traditional loose leaf tea and convenient teabags. Paul and Clair really wish to cater for everyone's tastes, whilst hopefully touching them with their passion for really good tea!

Our current blends are *Bucklebury Classic English Tea*, *The Earl of Bucklebury*, *Bucklebury Avenue*, and *Bucklebury Standard*. The Bucklebury Tea Company can be found at www.thebuckleburyteacompany.co.uk. They are stocked in the Cottage Inn and L-Interiors as well as Elcot Park Hotel in Newbury. We are hoping to range them in many more shops in the coming months. Enquiries should be sent to enquires@thebuckleburyteacompany.co.uk

Painting Classes at The Victory Room

Monday mornings in the Victory Room have been Painting mornings for many years...this year, it's the end of an era ... and the beginning of a new one! After 21 years as an Adult Education tutor at Newbury College, teaching classes at the Victory Room, I have resigned. But the classes will continue, now privately, and at half the price charged by the College! The popularity of this change means that the Autumn class is already full, but if you are interested in joining us, please contact me and I will keep you informed about future vacancies.

I am very happy to offer one day workshops: *Learning to Draw by Learning to See*, *The Painterly Print*, *The Art of Colour*, *Introduction to Acrylics*. Please contact me for further details or see my website.

Jill Eisele

Successful re-launch of Thatcham Film Club

Friday 27th May saw the successful re-launch of Thatcham Film Club when 34 local residents watched *Made In Dagenham* at the Frank Hutchings Community Hall in Thatcham. Until recently the Club had been run by the Corn Exchange following the sad death of the previous organiser, Pete Allen.

Keen to continue the good work of Pete Allen, the club, which has no subscription fees, offers local residents a chance to see popular films at an affordable price. The venue offers free parking, refreshment and a chance to meet up with and make new friends. It is an excellent way of spending an evening, especially if you're not confident to go to mainstream cinema on your own, and nearer for those living in one of the outlying villages. The club has an email address where you can request further information (see below) or Google for us.

The Club which screens a film on the last Friday in the month welcomes new volunteers and suggestions for future films. It hopes eventually to make the Club a truly social evening, with themed suppers, cheese and wine, discussions groups etc. Recent films include *The King's Speech*, *True Grit*, *The Producers*, The next film on Sept 30th is *The Eagle*, starring Channing Tatum, Jamie Bell, and Donald Sutherland. On 28th October we're showing the classic *The Lavender Hill Mob*, followed by *Oranges and Sunshine* in November and after Christmas, the comedy *The Nativity*. Doors open at 7.00, film starts at 7.30 and tickets are £4.50 on the door.

Further information can be obtained from Sandra Stone or Jean Lyle.

Jean Lyle Chairman, Thatcham Film Club

Organisations

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 just 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!

This past month we have been really busy, we have been off swimming, spent a weekend camping and had a talk all about fishing! What we do is decided by the members with some guidance from club leaders who are all CRB checked and First Aid trained.

So if you have some energy to spare, please contact one of us and they can tell you what we are up to!

Kate Munro-Ashman

Stephen Waters



Last year also saw the expansion of our practical, emotional and

financial support services. This helped us provide a record of over £10 million in Macmillan grants and secure at least £70 million in benefits for people affected by cancer.

£57,000 in grants was given in West Berkshire. One in ten people living with cancer lose their homes due to financial difficulties Macmillan are working with patients and family to help alleviate the additional stress this causes.

It is the commitment and energy of all our supporters, volunteers, staff and professionals that enable Macmillan to pursue all avenues to alleviate pain, stress and support those living with cancer. Thank you for all your support and loyalty. In difficult economic times, people affected by cancer will need our support more than ever before.

A luncheon at The Vineyard October 31st - Sir Peter Michael will be our guest speaker – speaking about his wines and

pictures just to visit the Vineyard and to see some of the wonderful pictures is a treat in itself. Tickets are £38.00 each which includes a glass of wine and coffee. Please contact me for further details and tickets.

Our 10th Annual Christmas Cancer Concert – The very special Christchurch Cathedral choir will be performing and wonderful well known speakers (Saturday December 3rd 2011.) Reserve your tickets early!

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

Please continue your support, it is very necessary and much appreciated

Erica Tipton, Chair Newbury Committee

Chapel Row Community Service Group

The Community Service Group was formed in 1980 and is a registered charity funded by donations. We cover a large area: Bucklebury, Upper Bucklebury, Woolhampton, Upper Woolhampton, Midgham, Beenham, Brimpton and Lower Basildon.

The Group helps people who are unable to drive - helping them with hospital visits, keeping their doctors' appointments, opticians and chiropodists, collecting prescriptions and with essential shopping.

We befriend the lonely, bereaved, housebound, handicapped and mentally ill.

Since the Group formed in 1980 we have established two lunch clubs for those living on their own. These are held in Woolhampton Village Hall on the 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month. They are greatly appreciated and enjoyed and are a place of contact with others.

We are a group of volunteers who continue to help the elderly, lonely and those in need of support in any way we can. Each Christmas we deliver hampers to those identified as being in need of a special treat.

We are always pleased to welcome additional drivers and helpers. Also, please contact us if you know of anyone in need of our services whom we may be able to help. Such people often have no voice. Unless you speak for them we may never know of their needs. Their privacy will be respected.

Contact me.

Georgina Cardy

News from Bucklebury Village Events Committee

Cherish your mugs!

After a frantic few months, the production line has finally ground to a halt on Bucklebury parish's Royal Wedding celebration mug. Designed exclusively for us by Emma Bridgewater, we can now reveal that those of you who bought mugs as well as the children who were given one, are the proud owners of a very special limited edition from a run of just 2500.

Christie Morris, who valiantly took on the mammoth task of distribution together with Helen McGowan and Hayley Coverdale managed 670 orders and answered 1,000 emails. Mugs have gone around the world - to Jamaica, Canada, USA, Australia, Ireland and the Isle of

Man as well as appearing at inflated prices on EBAY!!

Two mugs were sent to Prince William and Catherine as a wedding gift and one of each size has been donated to the West Berks museum in Newbury. A pair of mugs will also feature in a display that is moving around local churches across the country. In addition, the team distributed around 350 free mugs to local children. Remaining mugs will be on sale at Chapel Row Fayre and at Bucklebury Farm Park with all proceeds going to the Bucklebury Village Events Committee.



Calling all budding event planners: first AGM 19th October!

When the idea for an events committee to support activities throughout the parish was first mooted, little did we imagine what was in store! Our first agenda covered a wish-list ranging from book and film



clubs to sporting events but even at that first meeting all this was swept aside by plans for a village party for the Royal Wedding. What was envisaged as an afternoon tea quickly gathered pace and before long, as we all know, we had a mini-festival on our hands! Now fully recovered, the events team is keen to regroup (and expand) this autumn. The committee's first annual general meeting will be held from

7.30pm on 19th October in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall, so why not come along, bring some new ideas (and a sense of fun!) and help us keep up the momentum and real sense of village spirit which we all celebrated on that great day back in April?

Lighting up Bucklebury this Christmas



Anyone who has driven through Hampstead Norreys at Christmas will have been captivated by the sight of lanterns lighting up the village. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery... so we have decided to borrow the idea as a

fundraiser for the church and Crisis At Christmas. The lanterns will be on sale in early

December and will be lit on the 18th December. To make this happen we need to collect around 1000 jam jars! If you would like to recycle your jars, please bring them along to BVEC agm or take them to Peaches Stores where they will be collected.

PS. Don't miss the village's first Christmas Tree Festival will be held on December 3rd at the Victory Room.

A special village Diamond Jubilee Tea in the Park event is planned for Tuesday June 5th 2012 at Bucklebury Farm Park – watch this space!!

New Venture

Bucklebury Women's Group



Come to a meeting on
Tues 20 September
at 7-45pm
in the Oak Room

Bucklebury Memorial Hall

And help decide what sort of group we would
like – everyone welcome!

When we had our Parish Plan
consultation, several Parishioners
voiced a request for a women's
group. If you'd like to be involved
please come along!

Bucklebury History Group

Our Open Day held in May was a fantastic success! Well over 300 people attended during the day – the location was wonderful and special thanks to Willie & Marina Hartley-Russell for allowing us to use their home and for displaying a selection of their family archives. Thanks too must go to the Victory Room for the loan of all the tables and to all the parishioners who displayed items gathered from loft and cellar, and to all the helpers for their time.



Getting ready for History Day

It was lovely hearing snippets of conversation when people were reminiscing about the past – it was an excellent village occasion.

If anyone comes across any other items concerning village

life then please let us know. (However please don't call us if you find the bomb allegedly still on the common somewhere!) We learnt a lot, which will be followed up at a later date, including location of our defensive searchlights in Bucklebury during WWII. Watch this space!



History Day - a very busy day!

It is hoped to hold another open day sometime in the future but meanwhile we will be carrying on with our researches, recording the cemetery memorials, delving into the 1851 census and holding open meetings to which anyone is welcome. We will be taking a mini-display to St Martin's on November 1st which we hope will rekindle memories and give us more information.

Our next general meeting will be on MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER at 7.30p.m. in The Victory Room. (There will be a small charge to cover the hire of the hall)

I have been contacted by Jacqueline Day, who is tracing her family history and would like any information on the following:-

Thomas Englefield and his wife Anne who was a 'SMALLBONE' from Bucklebury at the time of their marriage in September 1779.

Any history on the Smallbone family of Bucklebury would be greatly appreciated.

If you do have any information please contact Helen Relf.

Helen Relf
David Tipton

Helen says: I have been sent the following article and photograph by John Reason about his exploits at Bucklebury. I would be very interested if anyone has any further information about the Youth Hostel at Hill Foot Farm and many thanks, John, for this information.

YOUTH HOSTEL AT HILL FOOT FARM, BUCKLEBURY

It had begun to snow at lunchtime on Saturday 18th January 1941. I, a young 16 year old, had gone to work at 7a.m. on that morning, as a relief switchboard operator at a department of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore in



Bucklebury - Hillfoot Youth Hostel 1936

Middlesex. I had only started work the year before and was training in accountancy, but was asked to fill in on the early Saturday shift until 3.30 p.m. There had not been an air raid, doubtless due to the bad weather, so I had not had to rush over to the boiler house on receipt of "air raid warning red" to operate the wailing siren – just another of the little jobs I was expected to do.

I cycled to work daily from my home at Bushey to the Hospital in the birch woods on Stanmore Common, via the back entrance, although the main gate was at the top of Brockley Hill, where the A5 Roman Road, Watling Street, came past from Marble Arch on its way to Holyhead. In fact I cycled everywhere. The year before, at the time of Dunkirk, on my brand new, red, lightweight bike, I had done a 3 day tour through Wiltshire, Hampshire and Dorset to stay at the Youth Hostel at Swanage, where at that time one could hear the guns from France.

But back to that Saturday in January 1941- the cycling club, the South Bucks DA of the Cyclists Touring Club had a regular programme of rides on both Saturday afternoons and all day Sundays, that weekend it was to be tea at Chalfont St Giles on Saturday and lunch (we hoped) at a pub at Compton on the Berkshire Downs on the Sunday, so that we could explore some of the Ridgeway.

It had been decided the week before that we would go on to Bucklebury Youth Hostel after tea and meet the others at lunch on Sunday at Compton.

At 3.30p.m. on that Saturday, I said goodbye to the switchboard and cycled home – changed into shorts – collected sheet sleeping bag (lightweight = Egyptian cotton) and other necessities – 1 egg safely wrapped in one of Mother's egg cosies – 2 rashers of bacon and two slices of bread – just enough for a frugal breakfast – tea etc would hopefully be available at the Hostel. Then it was off on the usual route via Rickmansworth – not too much snow on the main roads but once into the lanes it had built up to 6 inches and was beginning to drift.

At the crossroads by Newlands Park entrance – then a teacher training college, now a very interesting Museum of the Chilterns – I braked and went flying but no damage and on to tea at Stacey's Tea Shop in Chalfont St Giles, opposite the pond. This was an institution – cyclists' teas for 1/3d – a mecca for all the cyclists from far and wide. Not many riders turned up for tea, only George Hewitt and myself decided to brave the elements and carry on to Bucklebury.

And so we set off – a very dark night with lots of snow everywhere. Our route took us through Beaconsfield, Marlow, skirting Maidenhead and joining the A4 Bath Road at Knowle Hill – through Reading and on to Thatcham. The Bath road almost completely deserted, which was just as well as George, who was not a very steady rider, fell off several times, much to his annoyance but, again, no damage done. Once into the lanes after Thatcham, it all became rather difficult – a very dark night – lots of snowdrifts – pathetic wartime hooded cycle lamps giving hardly enough light to read the map but after quite a few false starts, more by luck than judgement, we found ourselves at Hill Foot Farm. No lights showing anywhere and too dark to see the notices, if indeed there were any. The door to the farm house was not locked – we crept in and found ourselves in a rather nice sitting room with the remains of a fire in the large inglenook fireplace. We called out to no avail and then managed to find two mattresses and some blankets, put them in front of the fire and turned in. Needless to say we slept like the dead until a very surprised Warden found us next morning in her sitting room. We apologised for being late (it was after 12 when we arrived) and said we had tried to wake her – she said she was very glad that we hadn't! Apart from that she didn't seem to mind at all. I had been determined to make it and George (my mentor) was happy to go anywhere at weekends rather than his bed-sit at St Albans.

In the light of day Hill Foot Farm looked very different – we found the Men's dorm in a large barn out in the farmyard – the women slept in the house. And so we sorted ourselves out, despatched the egg and two rashers and set off through the drifts towards Compton – no exploration of the Ridgeway possible – just survival. Compton was not very far away but quite a battle to get there and I cannot recall if we managed to get some lunch. But I do remember that as we were about to leave and head for home, brother Les arrived, having ridden from home at Bushey – probably all of 50 miles – just another weekend.

I see from my Youth Hostel cards that I stayed at Bucklebury for a total of 4 times during 1940 and 41 – the last being the 20th September 1941, a short time before it closed. Whilst out walking a few years ago, Dorcas Ward discovered the farm and found that the old farm house had been demolished and replaced with a new model - a pity that.

John Reason

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

When I last sat in front of this computer to transfer my horticultural thoughts into print all our gardens were covered with thick snow. Apart from April, it has remained on the cool side, but today it is pushing 30°, and yesterday's temperatures exceeded that. Perhaps the summer has started at last, but in these topsy-turvy times nobody knows what will be in the air when you read this. It should be rain, because we have certainly been through a very dry period, Bucklebury Ford has disappeared, and the River Pang will soon cease to flow through the village. This is not a rare event, the last time was in 1996, but since then water extraction from the valley has allegedly been controlled in order to maintain the river flow. Nevertheless it has dried up now, and will remain so until at least next Spring. It may be several years before the water levels recover. In 1989 it dried up and stayed empty for three years, becoming a scruffy, silted-up ditch, which steadily filled with undergrowth, first weeds, then bushes, and eventually even small trees took root. Unfortunately, throughout the period, the much needed maintenance was not carried out and in 1993 we had our first recent flood. Hopefully, following the excellent work of the Flood Alleviation Group, this sorry state of affairs will not recur.

The effects of the low rainfall are plain to see in our shrivelled gardens, but our members still managed to display some fine produce at our Summer Show, and it will be interesting to see what is brought to our Autumn Show benches on Saturday 10th September. Perhaps you might like to come along and see?

In addition to the shows, we held three evening talks. Somehow I think we could have dug deeper into Brian Davis's knowledge, but Leslie Waldren provided many useful tips for growing our vegetables, and Julie Walsh gave inspirational advice on selecting ornamental plants for our gardens. Mr. Walsh also handed out free seed potatoes. I think they are named after Picasso, anyway I took three, which I planted in

old compost each in a separate dustbin. I have just tipped out the first bin, and I must say that the crop was most impressive, unlike my carrots, which turned out to be lettuces, my beetroot row produced just one edible root, and the dwarf beans seem to be a special bonsai variety. However the second sowing of carrots is better, whilst the runner beans and courgettes, although very late are now cropping heavily.

Our annual trip to Wisley went smoothly, whilst the intended trip to the Savill Gardens was not possible, and so we went to the Royal National Rose Society Gardens at St. Albans instead. The RHS Gardens are vast, probably the best gardens in the world, and it is tough to see everything in one visit, but by using our privileged free admission, and going every year, we are gradually becoming aware of its many treasures. The rose gardens, by comparison, are quite compact. However we enjoyed many brief sunny spells under the threatening skies, and there was a remarkable quantity and quality of bloom on show, in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes, many accompanied by heavy fragrances. We were all

able to select our favourites at leisure. Personally, I selected three dwarf bush roses called "Flower Power", aptly named as they have flowered profusely since their purchase, which was made possible by the coach driver pulling my number out of the hat in the month's "200 Club" draw. We will try Savill again next year, and book early for the middle of May, when we should be certain of a fine display of rhododendrons, azaleas and flowering bulbs.


A new note for your diary is Saturday 1st October, when we are holding a Murder Mystery Evening in the Memorial Hall. You will need to arrive promptly at 7.30pm, so as not to miss the beginning of the action, the drama unfolds before supper, during which more clues may be revealed before the mystery can be resolved. There will be a prize for the successful sleuth. Tickets are available from the Ward's.

Happy Gardening!

Derek Matthews

BUCKLEBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING



SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER, 2011

BUCKLEBURY MEMORIAL HALL

7.00 pm FOR 7.30 pm START

Come and enjoy an evening with KATs and try your detective skills!

Delicious hot supper Prizes for winning table Raffle

Bring your own drinks/glasses

Tickets £12.50

Please telephone for tickets:

Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society



IT'S PANTOMIME TIME!

Auditions for the Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS) annual pantomime start at 8pm on Monday 3rd October at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall. Anyone aged 14 or older is invited along to a very informal read-through of the script that first day. Follow-on acting, singing and dancing auditions will be held on 6th, 10th and 13th October for those who want to take part. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to take part and have a lot of fun!

The pantomime is called "Panto Rules! OK!" and has been written this year by KATS Chairman John Hicks who will also be directing it. The show will be performed at Kennet School in February 2012.

For children aged 8-12 there will be a Junior Chorus audition on Sunday 16 October at 2:30pm at the same hall.

If you would like more details about the show or the auditions, please contact John Hicks or visit the KATS website at www.kats.org.uk.

John Hicks



Bucklebury Beerfest

Saturday 1st Oct 2011
1pm till late Free entry

Real Ales * Cider * Wine

- ✓ Live music
- ✓ Bar-B-Que
- ✓ Cakes & teas
- ✓ Bouncy castle
- ✓ Local trade stands
- ✓ Fun for the whole family

**Bucklebury Village
Recreation Ground**



The Victory Room Bucklebury Village



BUCKLEBURY BEERFEST

Saturday, 1st October 2011

The third annual Bucklebury Beerfest is just around the corner, and it's going to be a fun, free event for the whole family! This year we are arranging more varieties of beer, six different bands will provide great live music, a fun mix of games and activities for children, all sorts of trade stands and delicious food throughout the day. We're happy to report that Bucklebury Farm Park is joining in again, bringing animals to view and pet.

The event starts around 1pm on the Recreation Ground, Bucklebury Village - just follow the signs - there's plenty of parking. A large marquee will hold the performers with bales of straw for bagging a comfy seat. The live entertainment will continue until about 9pm, so come along for a fun afternoon and evening.

There's still time to join in if you'd like to support the Beerfest as a sponsor. All of our sponsors will be listed in the Beerfest programme - we really appreciate everyone's support offered for this event.

Be a barrel sponsor for only £50 - Your name will be:

- Prominently displayed on the sponsor's wall behind the bar
- Listed in the Bucklebury Beerfest programme, free to all attendees

Donate a raffle prize: Do you have an item that could be included in the raffle?

Volunteer to help on the day: Come along to help for an hour with one of the many activities planned. We couldn't run this fun event without the extra hands, so let us know when you can join in.

Contact any of the Victory Room trustees listed below for more information, and get involved in your local community!

Anne Ryder

Tim Culley



Victory Room 2010 Beerfest - Phil & Charles



Victory Room 2010 Beerfest - Oli + Clover

David & June Bearman
Julie Brims
Alastair McOran-Campbell
Jacquine Theunissen

WHAT'S THE BEERFEST IN AID OF?

The Victory Room is a registered charity and is looked after by a committee of volunteer trustees. Hiring out the hall for private parties, classes, meetings, Scouts and Cubs, and the local football teams helps bring money in to help maintain the building. However, the hiring fees don't cover all of the running costs, so events like the Beerfest are organised by the committee to raise funds, ensuring the hall is maintained for everyone's benefit.

VICTORY ROOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 1st November 2011 (7.30pm)

Open to the Public

As the Victory Room is a community venue, and a registered charity, every year the trustees hold an AGM which is open to the public. This year the meeting will be held in the Victory Room on Tuesday, 1st November, 2011. The proceedings start at 7.30pm, and you are welcome to attend.

The trustees want to know your views about the Bucklebury

Village Hall, and how it can be improved for the community. We also would welcome anyone who wants to get involved either for a one-off fund-raising event or to join the committee of volunteer trustees.

HIRE THE VICTORY ROOM FOR YOUR PARTY OR EVENT

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

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

Anne Ryder Trustee Chairman

Victory Room dates - see back page

Sports

BMX Track at The Memorial Hall

It is very pleasing to see that good use is being made of the new BMX track behind the Memorial Hall. The range of ages using the track seems to be from about four to eighteen and even younger ones seem to get pleasure from just running up and down the slopes when they are not in use by the BMXers.

Litter was a problem initially but since the installation of the new waste bin the problem seems to have almost disappeared – so well done to the users and let's try and keep our new facility in good condition.

Some users are riding up and down the sides of the 'humps and bumps' but this is not a good idea since the sides are part of the track support and if worn away will cause the track to collapse. Therefore all riders are asked not to take the short cuts and help keep the track surface in good condition. The condition of the track is monitored but if any users notice any problems with the track, e.g. large stones which have come to the surface, then please email (bmhbmh@hotmail.co.uk) and we will try and sort out the problems.

Finally remember to wear your crash helmet and continue to enjoy!!

Brian Mason /Jeremy Brooke

Bucklebury Wolves FC Keeps on Growing!

The third full season for 'Bucklebury Wolves' is already half way through. This was marked by a busy July including our World Cup (with almost 50 players), Annual Club Presentation BBQ and which ended with a superb three hour training

session run by Arsenal Youth Development Coaches.

The "Wolves" team (mixed 8-10 yr olds) is at full capacity with 31 players and now has 4 regular Coaches and 2 occasional Coaches. The "Cubs" team (mixed 6 & 7 yr olds), launched in February this year, has grown to 21 players and now has 4 Coaches and is virtually at maximum capacity.

In the future there is the possibility of an all-girl team and to continue to grow, the Club has trialled a "Greys" team (4 & 5 yr olds) which should launch next season in February 2012.

The future looks very bright regarding membership although not being a registered charity in these austere times, we must mitigate against a possible reduction in financial support. With solid future planning and an active committee structure, including our Treasurer and Fundraiser, we hope we can continue to provide this opportunity to Parish children for some years to come.

We currently enjoy the support of the Parish Council, Victory Room Committee and our shirts & iGoal sponsors who are MCD Plastering, BfS Pressroom Solutions and PC Related (current parents). We are also grateful to Sentinel Fire & Security; the Bladebone Butchers; the Greenham Common Trust; West Berkshire District Council; Berkshire Community Foundation and the Football Foundation who altogether keep this very friendly, rural club free to join in.

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who coaches and helps us, including all the parents and grandparents for their fantastic support and encouragement which is very much appreciated.

Training is usually from 09:45 each Saturday morning (from February to October with no breaks for holidays) at the Victory Room pitch, Bucklebury.

If you have a curious or keen footballer, who will be aged 4 or 5 or a girl aged 7 to 9 in February 2012, please contact me or visit our website (address below, or just Google us).

Jonathan Poole

www.buckleburywolvesfc.sports.officelive.com

Bucklebury Badminton Club



OPEN EVENING TUESDAY
13TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Whatever your level, please come and have a go at our fun game! On Tuesday 13th September from 8 to 10p.m. at Elstree School we are opening our doors to all visitors.

Once again we have the very popular coach, Steve Heath, on hand to help you with your game if you wish. There is £3 charge which is refundable if you join the club this year.

If you miss the open evening, please feel free to turn up on any Tuesday evening at 8 p.m.

WANTED: MEN PLAYERS TO PLAY IN MATCHES!

This season we have two men's teams; one in division two and one in division four, so there's plenty of scope for all abilities. If you would like to play in matches please come along or contact us at the details below.

We are also looking for more lady players and anyone who wants to play on club night but not in matches. We have four courts so you will have a chance to play at your own level during the evening.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m.

Margaret Neville

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Tennis Club

NEWBURY & DISTRICT LEAGUES: SUMMER

The Newbury & District Summer league has now been completed. With five teams involved (the most we have ever supported) we have managed to hold our own in most of our matches.

Team	Captain	Division	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
Men's A	Andrew Rogers	1	10	8	2	
Men's B	Roger Aylward	3	10	5	5	
Ladies' A	Trish Strang	2	10	3	5	2
Ladies' B	Julie Brims	4	8	1	5	2
Mixed	Heather Dufaur	2	8	1	7	

Particular credit should go to the respective captains who as usual ensured that Bucklebury always met their commitments and presented a team for all their fixtures.

VETS MATCHES

We have been running a successful Vets team in the local Greeacre winter indoor league ending last year's competition as runners up. Norman Casson continues to pull in the enthusiasts, so if you're interested in the occasional game let him know at normancasson@aol.com

TEENS MATCH

We also have involved some of our Teens and played a match

against Woolton Hill. Our team consisting of Peter Spriggs, Greg Eaton and Jack Eaton did very well to win against a strong team from WH The overall result was 5¹/₂ : 1¹/₂ to Bucklebury. Very well played Bucklebury!

YORKSHIRE CUP

Bucklebury have successfully fought through 3 rounds of the Yorkshire Cup and are due to meet Harwell in the finals on Sunday 4th September at Harwell.

COACHING

Over the summer we have had a very successful programme for our Junior coaching. Bucklebury Primary School continues to benefit from, and enjoy, their regular sessions on Mondays for the Year 5 pupils. Our Club Under 12's followed on after school for two sessions and then our Teenagers enjoyed a Saturday midday session. We added, for the first time, a holiday coaching week that proved very popular with those who participated. The Club organises the coach through an agreement with Bradfield College Tennis Centre so there is quality instruction for the participants. It is good to see the improvements in their abilities and skills by the end of the week.

THE WEBSITE

Bucklebury Tennis Club has opened its own website www.buckleburytennisclub.com partly to introduce the Club to as many newcomers as possible and partly to assist communications with current members. There is still work to be done but it has already born fruit from new memberships.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Winter League

The Winter league will be starting in early October. Matches are played over the weekends between October and March next year. Interested players should contact Robin London. jim@london6909.wanadoo.co.uk

Coaching next term

Due to both the success and the popularity of the programme we aim to extend the sessions into the first half of the winter term. Places for this need to be booked and paid for in advance. Anyone interested should contact Emma Spriggs, ejn@asalimited.com, or the undersigned.

And adults should not feel left out. Our coach Liam Phillips is keen and willing to offer group or individual sessions to either beginners or rusty senior players who still use wooden framed rackets and white balls! Again anyone interested should initially contact the undersigned.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our last function for the year will be the Club Supper on Saturday 19th November to be held at The Bladebone.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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

Mike James



Country Life

Bucklebury Estate & Bucklebury Common

THE CORONATION OAK

The Coronation Oak is a “veteran” pollarded oak tree near Vanners on the Common. It is one of the oldest trees on the Bucklebury Estate being over 500 years old. In 1902 twelve hundred parishioners held a picnic under the Coronation Oak to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII and hence the tree was named the “Coronation Oak”.

As is typical with a tree of this age, a certain amount of dieback has occurred including one main limb. Dick Greenaway, a respected expert on veteran trees has inspected the Coronation Oak and concluded that major tree work would not be advisable. He did, however, suggest that the area around the tree be cleared of undergrowth and minor works to the crown undertaken.

Accordingly, the Bucklebury Estate will undertake some specialist work over the winter months to improve the tree and its surroundings. We have also identified a further veteran tree nearby which again will receive the same attention.

The Coronation Oak is a magnificent tree and one well worth preserving. There is a plaque on the tree commemorating the Coronation for those who would like to visit it .

A NEW AVENUE TO CELEBRATE THE ROYAL WEDDING

The Bucklebury Estate has planted a new avenue of oak trees at Chapel Row (along Hatch Lane) to celebrate the recent marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The project has also included improved wooden gates and parking. Unfortunately two of the oak trees have died, despite valiant watering by Martin Fidler of the Bladebone Butchers. These will be replanted over the course of the winter.

To complement the new avenue of oaks, the Estate is hoping to erect two gate posts at the East end of the Avenue at “Wood Gate” near Roselands , replacing the former gates that were evident until the earlier part of the last century (see *Bucklebury in Focus* for a photograph) . We have commissioned Marnie Moyle, a local craftswoman in green oak, to make the posts.

For more information, please contact

The Bucklebury Estate Office Tel: 01189 714187 or see www.buckleburystate.com

Willie Hartley Russell

Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers

The year is rolling on and no real settled Summer yet; but here's hoping! Nevertheless the volunteers have been busy out and about.

We are now working closely with Bucklebury Parish Council and this Autumn are planning to do more work on the Hockett field. Some years ago we planted the hedge surrounding the field and will now be tidying it up. I am told that it is not yet sufficiently grown for laying but has spread a lot. Laying will have to be postponed for another year. Meanwhile we shall be tackling some of the Common footpaths which need clearing and indeed, others in the rest of the Parish.

The volunteers have always worked outside the strict environs of the Pang valley as well as within it. For the last few years our efforts have been spread to sites in the Kennet and Lambourn valleys; indeed there are currently Thames-side tasks as well. For this reason there has been a call recently to rename the group to better reflect our geographical spread. Dick Greenaway, who now chairs the ‘Friends of the Pang, Kennet & Lambourn Valleys’ is also considering rejuvenating this organisation and possibly adopting a less cumbersome name. If anyone has any suggestions for a possible answer to either question please contact the present PVCV chairman Frank Hayward or Dick Greenaway.

If you are not a member of the ‘Friends’ but would like to support the volunteers and the corresponding Countryside Projects run by FWAG for whom the tasks are primarily carried out; you can join the ‘Friends’ at, currently, £15.00 pa per family for which you will get your own copy of our newsletter *UpStream* delivered to your door quarterly. *UpStream* contains information on the work of the Countryside Projects and other conservation matters as well as the diary of planned tasks, guided walks and talks for the next quarter. Copies of *UpStream* are also available from the local shops, pubs and surgeries.

To join the ‘Friends’ ring Nathan Walker at the Countryside Project Office at Englefield

Tel 0118 930 5335/6.

To join the volunteers for any advertised task, just turn up at the listed location on the day - bring your own lunch - tools are provided and you will be instructed in their safe use. If you are a keen conservationist and are concerned about the maintenance of the biodiversity of our countryside I am sure you will enjoy your day on the chosen task; but if task work is not for you, then we would welcome your fund-raising support. - so please join us at the ‘Friends of the Pang Kennet & Lambourn Valleys’.

Dennis Gower

Bucklebury Walk – 24

BUCKLEBURY – SADGROVE – HOPGOOD'S GREEN – TYLER'S LANE – THE SLADE

Take the footpath to the east of The Cottage Inn, cross the fields and lane to the road, turn left and then right, down the lane to Sadgrove Farm. Turn left at the bottom and continue to the road – turn left into Briff Lane and look out for the footpath sign pointing right to steps in the bank a little way up the hill. Up the steps and walk the footpath behind Winchcombe Farm, over the stile and through the woods to Hopgood's Green.

Turn right onto the road, Fanny's Lane, and take the first footpath on the left opposite a house, Hillhouse Farm, on the right. Cross the fields to Tyler's Lane (there is a gate after one field) and over the stile and turn right onto the road.

Take the first footpath on the left (at a passing place) and walk behind the houses through some trees to the field beyond. Follow track across the field, skirting the bottom of the hill to the tree line, then bear left keeping the tree line on your right. After a few meters there is a small, well-trodden path leading through a gap to a field beyond, with Andrew's Copse on the right hand side and views of the rear of Picton Farm. Follow the footpath to the right hand side of the farmhouse where you will find a footpath sign. Follow this path out onto the road (Holly Lane).

Turn left on to the road, down the hill until you reach the green. Bear right to cross the green and then right on to The Slade road. Go past the lovely thatched Talbot Cottage and the old chapel and then turn left at the footpath sign onto Bucklebury Common. Go straight on at the + paths and over foot bridge, up Spring Path and past Blind John's Well. Bear right and then keep left at the footpath sign, continuing up the hill. Bear right at the top and cross the cleared part of the common to the road. Cross over and follow the bridleway virtually straight across the common to the lane. Cross this track and on to Turner's Green – straight on and round the corner up the hill (chapel is on your left) and go straight over the cross roads. Turn right into Little Lane at Byles Green and then left onto Broad Lane and back to The Cottage Inn.

Footpath maps are available through the Parish Council.

HeLen ReIf

Contributions

Material to appear in *The Oaks* should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (eg MS Word), attached to an e-mail, to "johnlindyclarke@hotmail.com". Don't worry about layout as it will be re-formatted to the house-style. Please supply any pictures or artwork as separate files, as they are not usually recoverable from word processor files, and **don't forget to include captions for the pictures.**

All contributions appertaining to the Parish are very welcome, but the Parish Council reserves the right to adapt or omit submissions.

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

Wynne Frankum



Parish Diary Dates

SEPT

10 th	Horticultural Society	Autumn Show	2-4pm	Memorial Hall
13 th	Badminton Club	Open Evening	8-10pm	Elstree School
20 th	Bucklebury Women's Group	Inaugural meeting	7.45pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall
28 th	Bucklebury Greening	Public Meeting	7.45pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall

OCT

1 st	Horticultural Society	Murder Mystery	7.30pm	Memorial Hall
1 st	The Victory Room	Bucklebury Beerfest	1pm- late	Rec Ground, Bucklebury Village
6 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn
8 th	Parish Council	Commons Clearing	2-4.30pm	Memorial Hall
19 th	Village Events Committee	AGM	7.30pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall
31 st	Macmillan Cancer Support	Vineyard Luncheon	12.30pm	The Vineyard

NOV

1 st	Victory Room	AGM	7.30pm	Victory Room
3 rd	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn
7 th	Horticultural Society	AGM	8pm	Memorial Hall
14 th	Bucklebury History Group	Open Meeting	7.30pm	Victory Room
19 th	Bucklebury Tennis Club	Club Supper	pm	Bladebone Inn

DEC

1 st	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Bladebone Inn, Chapel Row
3 rd	Macmillan Cancer Support	Christmas Concert, Christchurch Cathedral Choir	7pm	St Nicholas, Newbury
3 rd	Village Events Committee	Christmas Tree Festival	11am-5pm	Victory Room
18 th	Village Events Committee	Parish Lantern Lighting	Dusk	All Households
19 th	Parish Council	Carols by Candlelight	6-7pm	Cemetery Chapel

JAN 2012

5 th	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
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FEB 2012

2 nd	Bucklebury Walkers		10am	Cottage Inn, Broad Lane
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APRIL 2012

23 rd	Macmillan Cancer Support	Pam Eyres at the Vineyard	12.30pm	The Vineyard
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JUNE 2012

5 th	Village Events Committee	Diamond Jubilee tea in the Park	TBA	Bucklebury Farm Park
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Bucklebury by Candlelight

Join us in lighting up Bucklebury Parish with lanterns on 18th December as dusk falls.

Buy the kit (£1) from the church or local shop.

Proceeds will be split between the Church and *Crisis at Christmas*.

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