

The Oaks



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Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

A piece of good news: the defibrillator outside Peach's Stores has been put in place (Jan14th). BPC are indebted to Dorothy Dugdale, Hash Shingadia and Heartstart Thatcham for all their help and encouragement and Councillors Anne Hillerton and Tim Slatford who have worked very hard to enable the plans to come to fruition. Several more defibrillators are planned for the parish. Donations boxes are available.

The second piece of good news is that the precept will remain the same in 2016/17.

The Bladebone is now listed as a community asset which means that should it ever come on the market parishioners would be in a position to have some say in its future. Applications applying for Peach's Stores and The Cottage Inn to become community assets will be made this year.

The transfer of the meadows to the parish: we await the answer to one final legal query. Maybe by the next Oaks...!

In December, 19 members of West Berkshire Countryside Society spent the day planting hedging and clearing scrub in the meadows. We are extremely grateful to them for their time and expertise and to Richard Hubbard who masterminded the

day.

The air raid siren which was housed in the church tower of St. Mary's Church during the Second World War is now back there, having spent many intervening years in local museums. It is now surplus to their requirements, hence it's return.

Traffic. Concern has been raised about traffic along the road near St. Mary's Church, near the Cottage Inn and parking at Peach's garage. Glyn Davies, an officer from WBC traffic department has visited all the sites. "Slow" signs will be put up on Broad Lane and near the church. Other measures will be put in place near the church. It is hoped the footpath will be painted adjacent to the road by Peach's Garage.

BPC have been very concerned about the proposal to remove the school bus for pupils attending Kennet School and have been liaising with various involved parties.

BPC would like to thank all the people who worked so hard last year to make Bucklebury such a pleasant place in which to live and wish you all every good wish for 2016.

Wynne Frankum - Chair of BPC

Parish Council Chairman
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk
Helen Pratt

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West Berkshire Countryside Society working on the meadows.

Parish Council Matters Arising

Public Access Defibrillators

EVERYONE: READ THIS!

YES! YOU TOO!

With donations given in memory of Chris Baxter, funding from Bucklebury Parish Council, and the support of Hash and Chan Shingadia, a Public Access Defibrillator has been installed at Peach's Stores, Upper Bucklebury, by the Heartstart Thatcham team.

It has been placed externally on the side wall at Peach's so that access is available 24/7 for all residents of Upper Bucklebury and surrounding area and their families and visitors. Please go and familiarise yourself with its exact position so that in an emergency you know where to find it.

Here is the important bit: **you do not need any training to use this device!** If you find someone who has collapsed and you cannot get a response from them, ring 999 immediately. The call handler will talk you through a few checks, instruct you on starting CPR, and ask for a postcode. They will check their system for the nearest



Peach's Store defibrillator

defibrillator and ask you to send someone to get the defibrillator, giving you a code to get it from its case. Once the defibrillator is on the scene, the call handler will instruct you to switch it on. The machine then gives full verbal instructions and only delivers a shock if it is necessary. You **CANNOT** get it wrong, but you might be able to save a life.

Anne Hillerton and Tim Slatford

Further information on our defibrillators

As well as supplying a defibrillator in each of our four constituent villages, Bucklebury Parish Council's objective is to provide visibility and training such that parishioners are confident with the new equipment. During this year there will be opportunities to learn how to give CPR, and to try it out following the defibrillator's instructions on a dummy.

We would like ALL our teenagers to be trained in this. Teenagers react quickly and don't panic, so if we have all our youngsters trained we will have a good body of knowledge in our parish, now and for the future. There will be various training opportunities: dedicated courses are to be held in Bucklebury Memorial Hall, training within Scouts, Guides and Rangers as well as open training courses for people of all ages. Although the 999 call handler guides you through CPR, and the defibrillator itself gives all the necessary instructions, many of us would prefer to have run through the procedures first. Heartstart Thatcham is entirely volunteer run and will supply training for us. More details to follow.

Anne Hillerton and Tim Slatford



Funding for Bucklebury's Defibrillators

Bucklebury Parish Council aims to install another three defibrillators in the parish. The next, which is on order as you read this, is to be situated at The Victory Room to serve the community of Bucklebury Village and surrounding area, as well as anyone using the hall and playing fields. Then we will install one in Chapel Row, at The Bladebone, and one in The Slade. The aim is to fund at least one through parish public subscription, and we are almost there. There have been generous donations in memory of Chris Baxter, from the Victory Room and Recreation Ground committees, Bucklebury Wolves as well as the receipts from the parish carol concert and a highly successful carol service at Turners Green Chapel. Thank you to you all. However, our drive for funding is not complete. There are collecting pots in Peach's Stores, The Cottage Inn and The Bladebone. If you are in a position to give a donation, please contact Dorothy Dugdale (jdugdale@talktalk.net), 01635 864126, 45 Berrys Road, Upper Bucklebury). If you are a U.K. taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid form and we can collect an extra 25p per £1 donated.

Anne Hillerton and Tim Slatford

Bucklebury Parish Council

Saturday 12th March 2016

COMMON CLEARING

Please come to help clear rubbish from
Bucklebury Common.

Plastic sacks, gloves and litterpickers
will be provided.

SKIPS at the Memorial Hall
and Chapel Row.

Meet at the Memorial Hall from 2.00pm.

Free refreshments afterwards.

"Keep Bucklebury Beautiful"

Bucklebury Cemetery



The "Carols by Candlelight" went particularly well this year. The rain held off and once more Lindsey McNish masterminded the evening with his usual aplomb. The Beeson family surpassed themselves by providing mulled wine that seems to improve year on year - or I just forget how delicious it is. They also supply a generator and lights. Cliff Rowley, Head of Music at

Brockhurst and Marlston Schools lent a wonderful sound system so we could all hear, even those standing by the gate. That made a huge difference. We have already mentioned next year! Christine Evans kept us all in tune on the keyboard, no mean feat and Theo and Dominic Powell welcomed everyone as they arrived with their cheerful playing. Katie Powell brought children from the primary school to play their recorders which they did particularly sweetly and well. Lots of people made mince pies and Andrew Aldridge made delicious gingerbread biscuits which proved very popular for the children. So thank you to everybody who contributed.

We were able to send £105.50 to both "Heartstart Thatcham" and "Cornerstones" the organisation that provides a home and help for children leaving care. Thank you to all of you who contributed so generously.

CR Landscapes continue to do an excellent job of maintaining the grounds. Please be aware that they need to use large equipment to maintain the areas around the graves. They cannot be responsible for individual graves.

Sadly this autumn some ornaments placed on graves were damaged or disappeared. Please remember that items placed on graves need to be robust and not precious since anything happening to them would obviously be most upsetting.

We have been indebted to Gill Coates for looking after the cemetery for a number of years, putting out the wheelie bins and making sure the place is neat and tidy. She now no longer has the time to continue putting out the bins, but will be continuing to look after the Cemetery. Ian Westbury has very generously offered to take over sorting out the bins.

The charges for the cemetery have not been reviewed for some time and this will be done this year.

If you have any queries about the cemetery, please contact Helen Pratt the superintendent of the cemetery.

Wynne Frankum Chair Burial Board

Planning

Once again, your councillors have been very busy looking at planning applications.

You will see on the list that the planning application for a solar farm at Mazelands Farm, Stanford Dingley is still pending a decision from WBC. Sufficient objections have been raised against this application that should the Planning Officer be minded to approve the application, it will automatically be considered by the Easter Area Planning Committee where District Councillors will determine whether the application is approved or refused.

There are a number of applications where the applicant has taken the decision of WBC to appeal. In each case WBC has agreed with the view of the BPC. The appeals are on the land at Siege Cross Farm (in Thatcham, north of the A4), at Fifeild Farm in Marlston and at Greenwood in Hatch Lane.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
15/00597/HOUSE	<u>Oak Acre House, The Avenue.</u> Proposed garden and pool room.	Object	Refused by WBC. Approved on appeal
15/01308/FULD	<u>Bucklebury Farm Park.</u> Erection of a log cabin to provide on-site staff accommodation and associated works (resubmission).	No Objection	Approved
15/00296/OUTMAJ	<u>Land at Siege Cross Farm, Bath Road (Adjacent Parish).</u> 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
15/02113/FULD	<u>Elmwood, Marlston Road.</u> Replacement dwelling and garage.	No Objection	Approved
15/02112/HOUSE	<u>Marywell, Chapel Row.</u> Alterations and extensions to dwelling.	No Objection	Approved
15/01915/HOUSE	<u>Indala, Burdens Heath.</u> Demolish existing 14 square meters (internally) sunroom. Erect (in its place) 20 square meters (internally) sunroom.	No Objection	Approved
15/02274/FUL	<u>Greenwood, Hatch Lane.</u> Section 73: Removal/Variation of Condition 2 – approved plans of approved application 13/02860/FUL. Proposed replacement dwelling with detached garage – revised proposals.	Object	Refused by WBC. Taken to appeal.
15/02288/HOUSE	<u>Oak Acre House.</u> Revised application for proposed garden and pool room following refusal of previous application 15/00597/HOUSE.	Object	Approved
15/02313/FUL	<u>Brockhurst Scool Playing Field.</u> Provision of new all-weather playing area with associated low level net enclosure, new emergency vehicle access with associated parking.	No Objection	Pending Decision

15/02076/COMIND	<u>Mazlands Farm, Burnt Hill Road, Stanford Dingley (Adj Parish).</u> Construction of a solar energy park to include the installation of solar panels, security fencing, transformer housing, access and other associated works.	Object	Pending Decision
15/02347/HOUSE	<u>Imagine, Upper Bucklebury.</u> Proposed extension and alterations to bungalow to add first floor, side and rear extensions with internal alterations and removal of conservatory.	Object	Approved
15/02259/HOUSE	<u>25 Broad Lane.</u> Section 73a: Removal of Condition 4 – Turning Area, for approved application 04/00593/HOUSE – Two storey extension to existing dwelling. Provision of dropped kerb and new entrance off Broad Lane.	No Objection	Approved
15/02340/FULD	<u>Fifield Farm.</u> Demolition of existing out-buildings and barn and replacement by proposed erection of a dwelling.	Object	Refused by WBC. Taken to appeal.
15/02450/HOUSE	<u>Turners Green House.</u> Renovation of existing outbuilding with ground floor extension to garage, new external staircase and alterations to fenestration.	No Objection	Approved
15/02684/HOUSE	<u>Birchwood, Burdens Heath.</u> 1 st floor side extension to include garage conversion and replace flat roof with a tiled roof.	No Objection	Approved
15/02593/FUL	<u>Midgham Croft Cottage, Midgham Green</u> Section 73: Removal of Condition 3 – Code for Sustainable Homes of approved reference 13/02955/FUL: Demolition of house and outbuildings. New four bedroomed house. Reconstruction of garage and store to form studio.	No Objection	Approved
15/02838/HOUSE	<u>Paxton House, Sadgrove Lane.</u> Alterations and extensions to dwelling including conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.	Object	Withdrawn
15/02315/FULD	<u>Peachs Garage, Long Grove.</u> Retrospective: Change of use from garage service (sui generis) to residential dwelling	No Objection	Approved
15/02959/HOUSE	<u>Butlers Orchard, Bucklebury.</u> Erection of two storey extension to existing dwelling to form residential annex, erection of porch and insertion of four dormer windows to north elevation.	Object	Approved
15/02743/HOUSE & 15/02753/LBC2	<u>Hopgoods Farm Cottage.</u> Removal of greenhouse and replace with a summerhouse.	No Objection	Approved
15/02979/HOUSE	<u>Meadow View, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</u> 1 st storey oak framed rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
15/02939/FULD	<u>Fifield Farm, Marlston.</u> Conversion of barn into single dwelling house and demolition of existing redundant ancillary buildings.	Object	Pending Decision
15/03104/HOUSE & 15/03106/LBC2	<u>Cherry Orchard Cottage, Hatch Lane.</u> Single storey extension and re-positioning entrance gates. New roof-lights and external stair to garage.	No Objection	Approved

15/03056/HOUSE	<u>Solina (also known as Dingle Dale), Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</u> Extensions to front and rear of property with a new detached garage with loft space over.	No Objection	Approved
15/03289/HOUSE	<u>Marywell, Chapel Row.</u> Section 73: Variation of Condition 7 – Licence, of approved application 15/02112/HOUSE – Alterations and extensions to dwelling.	No Objection	Approved
15/03292/HOUSE	<u>The Paddock, Midgham Green.</u> Demolition of concrete pre-fab garage and construction of new oak frame garage.	No Objection	Approved
15/03328/HOUSE & 15/03329/LBC2	<u>Pear Tree Cottage, Byles Green.</u> Single storey extension with open deck in the roof space.	No Objection	Pending Decision
15/03350/HOUSE	<u>Marywell, Chapel Row.</u> Comprehensive renovations including part single, part two-storey extensions, alterations to existing roofs and fenestration, internal alterations and associated works.	No Objection	Pending Decision
15/03382/HOUSE	<u>37 Mortons Lane.</u> Conversion of existing loft space to additional habitable accommodation.	No Objection	Pending Decision
15/03418/HOUSE	<u>16 Berry's Road.</u> First floor extension.	No Objection	Pending Decision
15/03432/HOUSE	<u>Denbar, Turner's Green.</u> Erect detached garage/store to front of house.	No Objection	Pending Decision
15/03356/MINMAJ	<u>Hartshill Copse, Burdens Heath (Adjacent Parish).</u> Section 73. Variation of condition 2 (time period of operations) of the appeal decision APP/U0300/A/88/93423 into planning application 125420 – Extraction of hoggin from Land adjoining Harts Hill Road, to enable a satisfactory restoration scheme to be agreed, implemented and completed.	No Objection	Pending Decision
16/00049/HOUSE	<u>39 Roundfield.</u> Proposed two-storey rear extension creating larger ground floor living space and 2 new bedrooms and bathrooms at first floor level. New front access and parking. Remove brick built garden store and reposition oil tank.	No Objection	Pending Decision
16/00071/HOUSE	<u>26 Chapel Row.</u> Construct new single and 2 storey rear extension. New first floor window to side elevation.		Pending Decision
16/00076/HOUSE	<u>Paxton House, Sadgrove Land.</u> Alterations and extensions to dwelling including conversion of garage to habitable accommodation. Re-submission of application reference 15/02838/HOUSE.		Pending Decision
16/00092/FUL	<u>Stable View, Briff Lane.</u> Retrospective permission for the enlargement and surfacing of an all weather manege.		Pending Decision
16/00123/FULD	<u>Manor View, Hopgoods Green.</u> Use of first floor annex as a separate dwelling.		Pending Decision

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: graham.pask@westberks.gov.uk

Quentin Webb Tel/Fax: 01635 202646

Email: quentin.webb@westberks.gov.uk

WBC Councillors' Report

When this copy of The Oaks reaches you we will be well into the New Year, may we wish you a happy and healthy 2016!

Over the years we have suffered many cases of illegal driving on the common by 4x4 vehicles and off-road motorcycles. We have received many reports of such activity but I thought it was worth trying to give some guidance to parishioners on what to do if you see drivers acting irresponsibly.

Firstly it is legal for people to drive on "byways" that are not subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) although to cause damage to the surface of the track is still an offence. Byways are easy to identify by entering "byways" on a search engine. Unfortunately there are some individuals, sadly too many, who abuse the law and illegally stray off the byway onto bridleways, footpaths and the common in search of deeper mud (which means more fun for them). We have responded to this by placing TROs on the most affected byways, most recently to those around Ramsbury Corner where Holly Lane joins Burdens Heath/The Ridge. This particular TRO has been recently extended until the end of June and reinforced with physical measures to make vehicular access more difficult.

Sadly I received a report on January 17th of two 4x4 vehicles being stuck below Briff Farm that needed to be towed out by a tractor! I am pleased to report that the police attended and a notice (a "Section 59") was given to the drivers which means that if they are caught again they will have to pay a fine in addition to a daily storage fee and, if they continue to drive illegally, the police are able to confiscate their vehicles and destroy them.

I have asked the legal team at WBC to pursue a claim against the drivers to repair the damage they have caused on this occasion.

This is where we ask for your help. The police are very aware of what has been happening and are very keen to help put a stop to this. I had a long conversation with our Neighbourhood Sergeant with the Thatcham Policing Team (Bucklebury/Downlands and Rural Crime) today and this is the advice he gave:

- If you notice anyone driving illegally on the common then report it immediately to the police on 101 (the non-emergency number) giving as many details of the location as possible.
- Record any information such as make of vehicle and registration number of the vehicles. If you are able to take a photograph for evidence it would assist the police but please be careful to do this discreetly as there have been reports of people being abusive!
- Give advance notice to the police if you know where this abuse of the common happens regularly in a particular location at a certain time. The common covers a large area but there are favoured tracks that are used and our PCSO Sarah Preston has asked for as much information as possible about which days and times the common is likely to be used and where.

Sarah can be contacted by email on sarah.preston@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. The police intend to target the worst affected areas in the near future but need as much local knowledge as possible.

If Bucklebury is targeted in this way then word will soon spread around the 4x4 community that they have to behave in a responsible and legal way or they risk losing their vehicles.

From 4x4 vehicles to 4x4 animals! I have been asked to remind some of our residents who ride horses on the common that whilst they are allowed to ride on bridleways, as well as byways, footpaths are not to be ridden on! Bucklebury is reputed to be one of the parishes in the UK with the largest number of public footpaths but they are intended only to be walked on and this is enforced by the laws.

For security reasons the WBC email addresses are changing over the next six months to a different format. The new addresses will be "firstname.lastname@westberks.gov.uk" and can be used now although the original format will work in parallel for around six months to enable you to amend address books over a period of time.

As always please contact us about any WBC issue you need help with.

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team

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

sarah.preston@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

kirsten.goodfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Sarah Preston C9881

Neighbourhood Watch

The following Neighbourhood Watch groups exist within the parish.

Burden's Heath	<i>Rob Tayton</i>	<i>01635 865495</i>
Turner's Green	<i>Neil Rendall</i>	<i>01635 865899</i>
Blacklands Rd, Berry's Road and Woodside Close	<i>Mrs S Dorling and Susie Poole</i>	<i>01635 864256</i>
Bucklebury Village	<i>David Barnes</i>	<i>0118 971 2647 dbarnes@macace.net</i>
Hatch Close	<i>C Fleming</i>	<i>0118 971 2315</i>
Hatch Lane(central)	<i>Debbie Potter</i>	<i>07747 021992</i>
The Avenue (east end, south side)	<i>Mrs J Bywater</i>	<i>0118 974 4124</i>
The Avenue (east end, north side)	<i>John Travis</i>	<i>0118 974 4616</i>
The Slade	<i>Hilary Cairns</i>	<i>01635 866021</i>
Briff Lane	<i>Philip Teal</i>	<i>01635 866587</i>
Broad Lane (track)	<i>Ian Westbury</i>	<i>01635 864230</i>
Broad Lane (west)	<i>Richard Sadler</i>	<i>01635 865846</i>
Broad Lane (east)	<i>Becky Hannam</i>	<i>01635 863313</i>
Morton's Lane	<i>Vacant</i>	
Byles Green	<i>Jeremy Brooke</i>	<i>01635 863035</i>

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

West Berkshire Volunteer Village Agents



Do you know someone who could use our help?

Carolyn is your Village Agent in Bucklebury and is supported by our team in surrounding areas. Do you know someone who is over 50 and/or socially isolated? Many of us can be very independent and then almost overnight, need a little help, but do not know what help is available. Village Agents can put residents in touch with the services that allow them to enjoy the community they live in and to be able to stay in their own homes for longer.

Carolyn can be contacted on 07547206030

Alternatively contact our coordinator Gill on 01635 49004 or 07775366812 www.villageagentswb.org.uk



Parish Website

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

The Website can be found at www.buckleburyparish.org.

Bucklebury Clubs/Organisations

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

Family

West Berkshire Ballet School

We finished the Christmas term with a magical visit from a special white bearded gentleman, who was entertained by our smaller dancers and made them all promise not to forget to leave something for his reindeer on Christmas Eve.

The following weekend was ballet exam Sunday. 26 beautifully turned out dancers entered this time from Grades 1 & 4 and we are delighted to report that 12 received Distinction with 14 gaining Merit – what brilliant and well deserved results – many congratulations to you all!

Just before Christmas we said a very fond farewell to Martin Eggleton who has been our faithful piano accompanist for over 25 years. We made a presentation of a ballet lithograph and drank a toast to him and Joyce. Martin has promised to return, we hope frequently, for special occasions at WBBS where he will be our honoured guest.

The Christmas outing this year was to see 'Cats' at the London Palladium – we had a wonderful evening with excellent seats in the stalls and, thankfully, managed not to lose any of our 58 travellers, despite being deposited in Regent Street amongst all the tempting shops and Christmas lights. One of Claire's friends was appearing and the

children were thrilled to meet her afterwards and to get their programmes signed by a real 'Cat'.

And now for all the exciting preparations for our summer production of 'Shrek The Musical' – Claire is nothing if not ambitious, and we can't wait to see this show. The cast of 42 modern and tap students are thoroughly enjoying their rehearsals and it looks like it's going to be another of Claire's triumphs.

Performances at Bucklebury Memorial Hall 11th-13th July @ 7pm and tickets will be available after 25th April from westberksballet@btinternet.com - book early as it will be popular!

Following on the success of our Summer Schools, we have decided to run an Easter ballet course this year as well, with a short performance on the final day. This, too, seems to be a popular idea and Holly & Jane are looking forward to 4 days of concentrated ballet.

We have a wedding to look forward to at the end of this month when Gemma marries Ben and we all wish them every possible happiness and many years of married bliss!

Love is in the air as we are delighted to announce Lucie's engagement to Jaz!

Off we go on another adventurous dancing year.....

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



Martin Eggleton's retirement day

1st Bucklebury Brownies



1st Bucklebury Brownies had a very active Autumn Term. We had a trip to Leapfrog Ceramics where the girls made some very creative plates!

Our cake stall at the Bucklebury Beerfest was very popular – thank you to everyone who supported us! We ended the term with a Christmas Ten Pin Bowling party.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for the Spring Term including:-

Craft badge activities, a visit to Newbury Fire Station for our Fire Safety badge, a film night and an Easter Egg Trail.

Please contact Michelle Harrison on 1stbuckleburybrownies@gmail.com for further information.

News

7th Bucklebury Beerfest Hailed as a Huge Success

Last year's Bucklebury Beerfest was bathed in sunshine and was a tremendous success, raising approximately £3,750 for Bucklebury's Victory Room!

Taking place on Saturday 3rd October, the event welcomed thousands of visitors to Bucklebury Recreation Ground where they could enjoy many different local beers and ciders, Pimms, local food cooked on the barbecue and a traditional afternoon tea, all accompanied by live music.

18 community groups and trade stands offered visitors the opportunity to purchase a large number of products, ranging from decorative statues to children's clothing, and traditional fairground entertainment, including a skittle alley, slides, and a bouncy castle, meant that the children were kept happy too. There was even a real fire engine on-site which proved very popular with both children and adults alike. In addition, the Bucklebury Artisan Food Market attended last year's Beerfest for the first time, showcasing some delicious homemade local products.

Last year's event also featured the Bucklebury Fun Dog Show with a wide variety of classes including Waggiest Tail,

Best Veteran, Junior Handler and Dog the Judge would like to take home. This helped to raise funds for numerous animal charities as well as the Victory Room.

The money raised from last year's event went towards the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the Victory Room. The Beerfest depends on its sponsors, trade stands, organizing committee and a team of volunteers to make it a memorable day for the whole community. As such, the Beerfest Committee would like to say a massive thank you to all those who made it such a success last year. We are extremely grateful to you all.

Finally, don't forget to mark your diaries for this year's Bucklebury Beerfest – taking place on Saturday 8th October 2016. Check out the Bucklebury Beerfest website (www.bucklebury.beer) for more information. We hope to see you there!

Carol Service in Turner's Green Chapel

The carol service at the Chapel in Turner's Green, on the 20th December was a big success. Sheila had prepared and decorated the Chapel and displayed the Nativity Scene. At about 10.30am the congregation started to arrive and there was a continuous stream of people coming down the Green until the Chapel was at bursting point with some people standing. The carols, solos and readings were much enjoyed and appreciated. The collection was for Heartstart Thatcham to help provide a defibrillators for Bucklebury Parish and amounted to £580. On behalf of Heartstart Thatcham a big thank you for your generous donations.

Martin Eggleton

Bucklebury Artisan Food Market

The Bucklebury Artisan Food Market is looking forward to another year of promoting great food. Watch out for our venue by following us on twitter or facebook @BuckleburyAFM and as always signs around Chapel Row the week before. We have enjoyed the Chapel Row green in the summer months, thanks to Willie Hartley Russell for that opportunity. In the winter we moved to Sadgrove Farm and the beautiful oak barns there. Thank you to Matthew's kitchen for rescuing us in the cold and storms plus making great food to eat whilst we browsed. Keep supporting us and help make this our best year yet. Any keen potential stall holders, makers or producers of great food, please contact janebywater@workwild.co.uk and keep up the good work promoting us on twitter.

Lucky beauties take their pick

A lucky dip of beauty products put a winning smile on the faces of the ladies at a coffee morning in Bucklebury Village.

They each paid £5 for a mystery gift donated by a top beauty editor raising the handsome sum of £180 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association's Reading and West Berkshire branch.

Publicity officer Jane Gilbert, who manned the stall in December, said it was a delightful event and very pleasing to



Mrs. Sheila Hollan helping three-year-old Harriet to take her pick.

have raised a total of £692 for three good causes.

The event at The Old Vicarage also included Christmas cards being sold in aid of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and a sale of bric-a-brac raising money for Bucklebury parish churches.

Jane said: "We are especially grateful to Amanda Service for hosting the event and for arranging the very kind donation of beauty products. It was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of MND.

Bucklebury Events Committee

It has been another busy year. The French Evening held at Woody's in March was a sell out and very popular; strings of onions, berets at rakish angles and a lots of "Ooh La la"! The staff at Woody's produced a most delicious meal accompanied, of course, by appropriate wines. The Events Committee are very grateful indeed for their help and support.

In October the committee helped run the Beerfest, on the recreation ground, which proved another very successful occasion, making lots of money for the Victory Room funds.

In November an American Evening was held again at Woody's. Besides delicious American food, guests were able to have a go at line dancing. Much hilarity ensued!

In December the Christmas Tree Festival was held at the Memorial Hall allowing it to expand. The theme this year was "Books" and there were some very unusual and originally decorated trees as well as the very pretty ones. Besides the larger hall enabling us to have room for more trees there were also stalls selling seasonal gifts. Decorating biscuits and some games lent by the McGowan family helped keep the children happily amused.

The Farm Park generously donated the mince pies to accompany the mulled wine. The profits were sent to the Newbury Food Bank.

The Emma Bridgewater mugs celebrating Princess Charlotte's birth continue to sell steadily although stocks are running low. If you still haven't bought one at the special price for parishioners, Anne Ryder is the person to contact. Email: buckleburyevents@gmail.com

By the time you read this, the Burns Night will have been held at the Memorial Hall, run again by Lindsey McNish, who with his tremendous experience and style makes it a very memorable evening.

Keep an eye open for future events. Celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday in June are planned, along with one or two evening events and of course, the Christmas Tree Festival on the first Sunday in December.

Bucklebury Events Committee

Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly

**8pm Friday 20th May 2016
Memorial Hall
Upper Bucklebury**

**Alex Cruickshank
Senior Land Manager at
BBOWT**

(Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust)

**The History of the Commons
and how they are managed by
BBOWT.**

Refreshments will be available after the meeting

Organisations

Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

The new bright red 2016 schedules should now all be distributed, and you can enjoy an evening in front of the fire, planning your campaign to win some prizes at our shows. It is also a good time to study the seed catalogues and perhaps lay down plans for re-planting a tired section of your garden as the winter is a good time for seeing the bones of your planting. After a very mild, dull and dank autumn we now have a chance to prepare our gardens for spring. This winter was very strange, with primroses preceding snowdrops and fresh English asparagus for sale in January! The ground remains wet and sticky and plants refuse a rest and allow us to get amongst them for a good tidy-up. Hopefully the weather will soon provide a good

opportunity for ripping out tired plants and preparing the ground for new planting.

Looking forward to the next few months we have some evening events to enjoy. The last meeting was on Friday 16th January, when Malcolm Brownsword returned after a three year interval, to present a colourful audio visual show. On 12th February a local nurseryman will tempt us with new ideas for our gardening. Tom Way entertains us on Friday 25th March with an interesting insight on the wildlife in our area. Please note that our Spring Show is earlier this year, on April Fool's Day (Friday 1st April) just after the Easter Bank Holiday. Meetings start at eight, although entries for the show should arrive from 7 pm.

During the year we are arranging three outings. The first is a coach trip to the Malvern Spring Show on Saturday 7th May, followed by an open evening at Cottismore Garden Centre, just north of Kingsclere on the A339, on Thursday 12th May starting at 7pm. There will be a guided tour plus a chance to buy some bedding plants at very competitive prices. In July, on the Saturday following our Summer Show we have our annual free car trip to the RHS gardens at Wisley (departing All Saint's Church, Upper Bucklebury at 9.00am.). This is a wonderful opportunity to bring a picnic and some friends to explore the best garden in the world at your leisure.

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

Details of all our activities are included in our 2016 schedule. New members are always welcome, contact John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy Gardening.

Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

St. Martin's Club

2015 was another very good year for the club. New members joined us resulting in all the coach outings being well supported, especially the cruise on the river Hamble in May which was oversubscribed. The outings for 2016 chosen by the members are given below.

Our October and November talks in the Memorial Hall were also well attended. The November speaker was Thomas Plant from local auctioneers SAS auctions who gave us the low-down on how the BBC produces Bargain Hunt. I am sure most members now watch the programme in a different light. Members were also invited to take along

items to be valued by Thomas.

December finished the year with our Christmas Lunch at The Old Mill Aldermaston. We all had a memorable day with lovely food, free raffle and mulled wine. The afternoon came to an enjoyable end with the husband and wife duo 'Just Us' playing 60's and 70's songs and some members throwing all inhibitions away and having a good old dance.

Our early 2016 meetings and talks in the Memorial Hall are as follows:

5th January Annual General Meeting

2nd February Patricia Purcell retired opera singer - "Tales from the Opera"

1st March Ian Gibb - "A Career with P&O"

Our meetings and talks take place in the Memorial Hall starting at 2pm. Entrance is £1 which includes afternoon tea.

The committee has also decided to continue with the free monthly Friday afternoon tea and biscuits for members in The Oak Room from 2pm until 4pm. The dates are 22nd January, 19th February and 18th March.

2016 Coach Outings:

5th April Cambridge

3rd May Black Country Museum

7th June Cruise from Poole

5th July Arundel Castle

2nd August Brighton

6th September Woburn Abbey

There are two pick-up points Peach's Store and The Bladebone.

Pat Bodsworth - 01635 864310

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 £2 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.

I would like to thank Pat Barnard-Smith for decorating the Mah-jong Christmas Tree for the annual Festival. The theme this year was books and Pat decorated the tree with 101 Dalmations! Well, 101 spots actually. Next year will be the winner, Pat!

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

Helen Relf,

01635 867619

helenrelf@relfsociety.org



Mah-jong Christmas Tree Entry

Bucklebury History Group

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

We would like to thank Anne Hillerton for decorating the History Group's Christmas Tree for the village display in December. I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed reading all the decorations!

Helen Relf, helenrelf@relfsociety.org 01635 867619

David Tipton, drptipton@yahoo.co.uk 0118 971 2148

Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



We would like to start by wishing all our members present and future a very happy and healthy 2016.

Just to update everyone on our 2015/16 program of events starting off with a photo taken at Oz Graves Turkish cookery demonstration in October, this was a great success with excellent food and finished with a request for her to return to give our 2016 Christmas party an eastern twist.

The next meeting was great interactive fun led by Louise Embling. We all came away with great smiles on our faces having made sugar teddy bears and penguins for our Christmas cake and again a request for her to return at a future date.

Next followed our ever popular Christmas party and quiz where it was announced that Janet Ford had won the TLC prettiest Christmas tree award. Well done Janet, congratulations.

This takes us up to date and the diary of events for 2016 is shown below;

12th January	History of Thatcham with Tony Higgott.
9th February	The building of Canary Warf.
8th March	Skincare treatment with Andressa.
12th April	A talk on the wildlife of West Berkshire by Simon Barnett the Countryside Officer for Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).
10th May	All about Ufton Court with Linda Clark.
14th June	Garden visit to be arranged.
12th July	Meal at the Cottage Inn.
No meeting in August.	

This is your Ladies Club and we would love to meet new members and welcome any ideas you might have for meetings for 2016/17.

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 hire of the hall and speakers and includes refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

Committee members: Wynne Frankum, Jackie Sadler, Hilary Pask, Karin Warne, Sue Puri, & Janet Ford



October TLC meeting - Oz Graves Turkish cookery

Bucklebury Friendship Circle

Another year has gone by and I am writing again to let you know that our Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday 4th May, 2016 at 10.30 am at Briff Farm (off Briff Lane), Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6SS. We will be holding it, as previously, in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

I am delighted to say that thanks to your very generous support, we achieved yet another record total of £1447.38 last year. Though the weather was mixed it was wonderful to have such a good turn out!

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

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

Judy Fleming – 01635 863814

Bucklebury Walkers

We have been walking the paths of Bucklebury and surrounding parishes since January 2006 – we are a mixed group of all abilities and our aim is to have a social walk each month. We walk for about 1 ½ hours and then enjoy a cup of coffee (or maybe a pint) afterwards, so the walk is both healthy and social! A pub lunch for some concludes the day.

We meet at various places around the parish at 10.00 am on the first Thursday of each month and enjoy a Christmas dinner each year.

Over 30 of us enjoyed an excellent Christmas meal at The Cottage Inn again this year. Great fun was had by all – I hope!

I would like to thank Diane Dalgarno, once again, for



Bucklebury Walkers
Christmas Tree Entry

decorating the Walkers' Christmas Tree for the village display. Her theme was James Herriot, All Creatures Great and Small, and won the prize for funniest tree. We have now bought a slightly larger tree for next year and donated £15 to Dominic Powell for his trip to China with the Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra as each young musician must raise funds for the trip. Have fun, Dominic.

We would also like to thank all the 'volunteers' who have led walks during the past year and we look forward to the walks in 2016.

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

Helen Relf, 01635 867619. helenrelf@relfsociety.org

Halls

The Victory Room

As you may be aware the Trustees have been looking for a couple of years now at options that will preserve the long term future of the Victory Room in Bucklebury Village. After lots of consultation and tweaking, thanks to the inputs from those in the Parish and in particular, local residents, we

feel that we have come up with a design that will provide a functional, comfortable forum for meetings and events, whilst keeping the quintessential charm and character of the surrounding environment. The Trustees expect to submit the Planning application to West Berkshire Council in February and we plan therefore to host an exhibition in the Victory Room with an opportunity to pose any specific questions on the development to Trustees. The exhibition will show a full set of drawings and artist's impressions depicting our journey from 2012 to the present day - we will alert you to timings via the Parish website.

John Clarke

Chair of the Trustees of The Victory Room

0118 9712768 john.clarke@live.co.uk



Sports

Bucklebury Tennis Club

KEEP FIT

For those of you who really want to be outside at this time of year, the tennis courts still offer a very good opportunity to get out in the open air, exercise, and enjoyment, all at the same time!

The courts are in tip-top condition; we have floodlighting for the evenings, and we have Damian Lane, our coach, ready to help you through a series of drills to improve your fitness and game. What more could you want?

DRILLS & SKILLS

Every Monday either at 6.30 p.m. or at 7.30 p.m. and every Thursday at 6.30 p.m. Members and visitors are most welcome to join the group for the occasional visit or regularly for every session.

WINTER MATCHES

We are half way through our winter league matches; the programme has been interrupted due to weather but with our option of playing under floodlights we don't lose out with cancellations. We are usually looking for new faces to join the regulars in these matches.

CLUB SUCCESSES

Once again our team of Garath Reayer, Andy Bowsher, Helen Raines and Lisa Saunders, captained by Darren Blackwood, succeeded in winning the Yorkshire Cup, A Mixed format of Men's doubles, Ladies doubles and Mixed doubles. We now host the next year's finals and hopefully we can maintain our position of no.1 team!

We also had successes in the Newbury & District summer leagues with trophies for the Men's A Doubles Div.1; plus Runners up for: Ladies A Div.3; Men's B Div. 3 and a top slot in the Over-45's Berkshire League.

COMING UP SOON!

"Skittles at the Memorial Hall, Saturday March 19th at 7p.m."

This is a fun evening open to all Bucklebury parishioners. You don't need to have any skills to participate and share the fun. Fish & chips is all included in the £10 ticket. Bring the family and form a team to challenge for the Winners trophy.

"Wine & Nibbles Social" with a short time devoted to the club AGM Tuesday February 9th 7.30 p.m.

JUNIOR COACHING

Programme to start Monday 22nd Feb through to mid October in school term time.

Mini red/orange: 3.45 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.

11yrs & above 4.45 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.

Cost £5 per session payable in advance for a term package
subject to a minimum of 6 children.

Contact Karen Pegg email k.p.pegg@btinternet.com

All enquiries to Mike James e-mail m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk

Table Tennis

ANYONE FOR TABLE TENNIS?

Is there anyone out there who would like to help start a table tennis club in Bucklebury? Could be great fun, good exercise (indoors too so all year round) and sociable as well. All ages 8 to 80 welcome.

Possible venue, the Victory Room.

Could be day time or evening, depending on the interest.

We would need to get some funding together to purchase a couple of tables plus other equipment (unless anyone has a full size table hidden in their garage or loft).

Please contact me if you are interested, either in organising or playing.

Lindy Clarke, Lindy.clarke@live.co.uk 01189712768

Bucklebury Badminton Club

NEW SEASON

We were very pleased to see so many members returning after the summer break and to welcome several new players too. Club nights are well attended and the standard is going up! Although please don't be put off by this – we encourage beginners and improvers to join us.

GET BERKSHIRE ACTIVE GRANT FOR COACHING

The club has successfully applied for money to run coaching sessions for 19-25 year olds who have never played club badminton. This is starting on 30th September and will be

continuing every Wednesday evening until mid November. Even though you will be reading this after the start date, it may not be too late to join so please contact us if you are interested.

CLUB MEMBERS WANTED

We continue to welcome new members, whether you've played before or not. We have men's, mixed and ladies' teams in the local league if you want to play seriously, or you can come along to club night for social badminton.

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

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Country Life

West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS)

The event below gives you the opportunity to come out on a practical task, 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.

Sunday 13th March 10.30am Bucklebury Common, heathland management Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat. Meet at Angels Corner SU 550 688.

Sun 20th March 2.00pm The Pang Valley in the Iron Age - A pair of short walks to look at Iron Age monuments on private land. Parking limited so booking essential. Ring 01635 201386 Join Dick Greenaway to look at Grim's Dyke and Grim's Ditch near Aldworth. Walks are short but surfaces are uneven. Meeting point given when booking.

Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group

We have had a busy winter maintaining the Common; turn your back for a minute and the silver birch or scots pine grow to six feet.

The Saturday/Sunday Group have been chipping away clearing areas of gorse and silver birch.

WBCS Tuesday group have done great work clearing "bunds" of 20ft silver birch, and having large fires. Our MSc class from Reading University also had a day clearing bunds, assisted by the WBCS "fire master".

By the time you read this article a contractor will have mulched a few acres of silver birch.

The heavy rain has once again flooded the heather with large pools of water. I wonder if the Wood Larks will return?

Tim Culley

Where Chapel Row Begins and Ends in Bucklebury

What a muddle there has been regarding the location and description of Chapel Row of late. I have heard it called a village; the only village in Bucklebury is the area around our parish church of St. Mary's.

The top of the hill above Hillfoot is where Chapel Row begins. This is because the Magdalen Chapel once stood here, (see Page 49 of Bucklebury in Focus) and runs along the straight road to the Bladebone area, where it ends, hence its name Chapel Row.

When you enter The Avenue you leave Chapel Row behind. It is very confusing to see two Chapel Row signs in The Avenue. The Old Surgery was in Chapel Row, beside the Bladebone, but the new one is now in The Avenue, the most historical address in Bucklebury.

At the other end of The Avenue are the new commemorative posts for the Royal Wedding, which have been described as being in South End Road. They are definitely in our lovely avenue, where the old common gates once stood.

We are all so very fortunate to live in Bucklebury. I was born here and I think it is very important our parish heritage is maintained.

Sheila Kent.

Walk - The Coronation Oak

On leaving the Memorial Hall car park, turn left, cross the road and take the footpath just before The Cottage Inn. Go through all the swing gates to the far side of the fields. At the end turn slightly right towards the road and then turn right on to the road itself. Take the bridleway on the left a little way along the road.

Follow this footpath and at the Y junction bear left then slightly right through the holly bushes and behind the cemetery until you come out into a lane. Turn right and follow the byway, past Greens Old Farm on the left, to the road and then turn left. Follow this quiet road to Angel's Corner (*Scout Camp site*), and keeping the camp on your left, walk through the layby noting the purple Bucklebury Map on the left.

To get to the Coronation Oak follow the gravel track, a restricted byway, round to the left and you will pass a house set back on your left, Foxhold, and then a driveway of the house down in a dip (*Osgood's Gully*).

Opposite the thatched barn/garage belonging to Osgood's Gully turn right along a narrow public right of way, which leads to the Coronation Oak. Keep left at the large silver birch tree and watch out for roots! The Coronation Oak will be on your right in a small clearing - you will note a plaque on the tree with details of the number of parishioners who attended a service there in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII.

Carry on along the same path and at the end, opposite Bucklebury Farm Park fence, turn left, and follow this path back to the main restricted byway. Turn left and follow this path back towards Angel's Corner, but just past the thatched garage to Osgood's Gully bear left onto a public right of way, follow the signs on the wide path and then turn left onto the main route parallel to the common road.

At the end, the lane meets a narrow road, turn right onto the road and then at the crossroads go straight over the main common road, look out for a foot path on your left, which leads across open common covered with heather towards a clump of trees. Turn right at the trees following the red byway sign. This again crosses the common, which could be wet if there has been a lot of rain, and at the end turn right and follow path to the road. Go straight across the road and into the lane to follow this back towards Upper Bucklebury, bearing right just before the Bucklebury Estate sign. Further along this lane you will notice a parallel footpath to your left – follow this path past "Tomlins" to a narrow road, turn right and cross this road to a footpath on the left back to The Memorial Hall on your left.

History of Bucklebury Cecilia Millson

After the war, when she and her husband came to live 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 were first printed in 1973.

Part III

Two national events of the 16th century brought changes to Bucklebury. In 1538 it was decreed by Thomas Cromwell, Vice-regent to King Henry VIII in ecclesiastical matters, that all baptisms, marriages and burials must be recorded. Bucklebury started its Parish Register with the entry:- "1538 Margaret Iremonger was baptised the 11th daie of ffebruarye"

And so commenced a record of the lives of the villagers throughout the generations.

In 1540, after the Dissolution of the Monastries, the manors of Bucklebury and Thatcham were granted by Henry VIII to John Winchcombe, son of the wealthy woollen merchant, Jack of Newbury. In return the King received the sum of £2,619 13s. 4d.

John Winchcombe demolished the Abbot's house and replaced it with a fine Tudor manor house. He died before it was completed and his son, John, was the first Winchcombe to live in Bucklebury. A charitable man, he made many grants to the poor of his manors, and charged his son and heir, John, to honour these bequests. The young man did not long survive his father, and it was the second son, Francis, who faithfully discharged his father's legacies. Francis left his mark on Bucklebury Church. He rebuilt the chancel and, although further restorations have been carried out, the great tie beam records:

"1591. Francis Winchcom Esquire build this"

He may have done this good work to commemorate the honour bestowed upon him in 1590 when he was made High Sheriff of Berkshire, an office he held again in 1606.

It is thought that Queen Elizabeth I visited Bucklebury on one of her tours around her Kingdom, and that oak trees were planted to mark the occasion of her visit. Proof may never be found, but the tradition provided an excuse to present an Elizabethan pageant when our own Queen was crowned just twenty years ago, The medieval fishponds in the manor grounds made a picturesque setting for these revels, and a decorated punt carried the madrigal singers to the centre of the ponds to sing to the "Queen" and her courtiers, and a large gathering of friends seated around the grounds. Everyone was relieved when the punt reached the

safety of the bank once again, the intrepid singers being none the worse for their venture, except for bites from the mosquitoes, no doubt infuriated at being disturbed by the colourful invasion on the still waters of the ancient ponds.

The Ramblers Work Party (RWP)

The RWP started when West Berkshire Council's Rights of Way (RoW) department asked for help with a joint project with Mencap who were looking for an outdoor activity for their members. We worked with Mencap for a number years and then with another group of disabled volunteers clearing vegetation from footpaths.

In 2003 we formed a separate group just for Ramblers, although the disabled volunteer group also continued up until this year when for various reasons it has stopped. The gate project started in 2005.

The RWP group works parish by parish walking all the Rights of Way in each parish. We check each RoW against data from WBC and carry out low level maintenance, clearing vegetation, collecting litter and putting in waymarks. Reporting back to the Council is an important element of the work.

Bucklebury parish has over 160 RoW, which is reputed to be the most RoW of any parish in England, and, coupled with the Common, it is a special challenge. The number of unofficial paths across the Common makes it difficult for the outsider to follow a route. However, over the years it has become better signed but the unwary can still get lost.

The RWP can claim that there has been improvement in the paths of West Berkshire but paths are organic and vegetation grows at a phenomenal rate, wooden posts rot and metal ones rust, gates sag and fall off their hinges. A sharp eye has to be kept to ensure that the RoW are not being abused by those who would block, divert or build over our precious and possibly unique resource.

The most helpful thing anyone can do to help the RoW is to report as accurately as possible any fault which is found when out walking. WBC has a good online reporting system for faults or, a telephone call to the main switchboard will be put through to the RoW department.

Over the years 9 gates have been put in and the RWP have worked in the parish in 3 times, 2006, 2010 and 2014. Bucklebury parish is a lovely, diverse parish and the group enjoys the hospitality of the Cottage after a morning's work.

Fiona Walker RWP coordinator November 2015

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 preceding publication.

Wynne Frankum

Published in February, May and October

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

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Parish Diary Dates

February

15th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
22nd	Planning Committee	8.00pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury

March

1st	St. Martin's Club	2.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
3rd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
7th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
8th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.45pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
12th	Common Clearing	2.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
13th	West Berkshire Countryside Society	10.30am	Angel's Corner (Heathland Management)
14th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room at the Memorial Hall.
19th	Bucklebury Tennis Club - Skittles	7.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
21st	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
25th	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Soc.	8.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury

April

1st	Bucklebury & Marlston Hort. Soc.	8.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury (Entries from 7.00pm)
4th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
5th	St Martin's Club		Trip to Cambridge
7th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
12th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.45pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
11th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room at the Memorial Hall
18th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
25th	Planning Committee	8.00pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury

May

3rd	St Martin's Club		Trip to the Black Country Museum
5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	TBC
9th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room at the Memorial Hall
10th	Tuesday Ladies Club	7.45pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
16th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	The Oak Room at the Memorial Hall
20th	Annual Parish Assembly	8.00pm	The Memorial Hall
23rd	Planning Committee	8.00pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury

June

11th	Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations	Afternoon & evening	St. Mary's Church & The Recreation Ground.
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