

The Oaks



Inside this issue:

Bucklebury Parish Council

Bucklebury Cemetery	2
Police Liaison Committee	2
Telephone Kiosk Book Exchange	3
WB Councillors	4
Neighbourhood Watch	5
Family	6
Organisations	8
Tuesday Ladies' Club	9
MacMillan C. S.	10
History Group	10
Bucklebury Community Events	13
Halls	14
Sport	15
Country Life	16
Contributions	17

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Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

Bucklebury Parish Council (BPC) would like to wish you all - somewhat belatedly - a very Happy New Year.

We were very pleased to co-opt and welcome Hilary Cairns on to the Parish Council in October. Hilary has lived in The Slade since the 1970s and has been a very active member of the parish. She is proving to be invaluable on the Parish Council and we are delighted to have someone who can represent the western end of the parish.

Christmas was well celebrated in Bucklebury. There was the traditional well-loved candlelit carol service in St. Mary's Church where the congregation was treated, on leaving, to the churchyard being lit by candles as part of the "Light Up Bucklebury" evening, organised by Bucklebury Events' Committee. There was carol singing in the barn at the Farm Park, with the Nichols family leading the singing. It was lovely to see so many families there joining in. And of course the Parish Council again organised Carols by Candlelight in the Cemetery Chapel.

Moving into the New Year we have a number of ongoing projects.

The legal work for the transfer of the three meadows behind the Cottage Inn from David Wilson Homes to BPC is still with the lawyers. We hope the transfer will be completed by April this year but there is much small detail to be resolved before that can take place.

Please remember that only the two larger fields have perimeter walks as well as the public right of way running north to south. The smaller field, onto which the gardens on Broad Lane back, does not have public

access.

We have been very lucky to have the working party from the West Berkshire Countryside Society working on the hedges at the Hockett Field this winter. They have now all been cut and another 100 whips planted. The dead gorse has been cut and burnt and in the spring we should see the benefit of such a dedicated team. On 8th January they were thanked with a lunch of substantial soup and bread in the middle of a long day's work!

Two very productive and well attended public meetings were held in the autumn to discuss the anti-social behaviour that has been taking place in the parish. The Police Liaison Group has been formed and stickers delivered to every house giving police telephone numbers. The Police Liaison Group will continue to monitor the situation. Another outcome of the meetings was the creation of more neighbourhood watch groups in the parish. There will be a third public meeting in March.

Sadly, despite all our efforts, and much hard work by Lindy Clarke, we were unsuccessful in our bid to establish the east-west track through Carbins Wood as a public right of way. It was turned down on appeal.

The Victory Room has a new and enthusiastic committee who are considering what will be the most appropriate way to ensure this most useful village hall meets the demands of the future. Please look for further information in this edition and fill in and return the questionnaire so they know what you think should happen!

We have been very concerned by 4x4s destroying the banks of the River Pang by the small ford. A site meeting has been held

between WBC, BPC, Piers Allison and other interested parties, and it is hoped measures will be taken to deter such destruction.

There is also serious damage being incurred on the common by 4x4s, often late at night. BPC, the police and Bucklebury Estate are working together to try and catch the people responsible for this illegal behaviour. If you see or hear anything, please report it immediately to the police. If you can take photographs as evidence, that is extremely helpful.

An increase in this academic year of cars bringing children to and from the primary school has caused much concern. A traffic survey was done and there were 82 car movements to and from the school in half an hour on one average morning. There is considerable concern that the safety of the children is being compromised. Berry's Road is quite narrow and was not built for large numbers of parked cars or vehicular movements. Some of the services, such as telephone wires, lie close to the surface under the verges and risk being damaged if cars habitually park on them. BPC had a meeting with the Head, Pippa Rowe, in December and, at her suggestion, we will be writing to the parents. The last thing we want is an injured child or a car accident. We do hope that, with the help of the parents and the school, we will be able to ameliorate the situation.

As you know the precept has remained unchanged for a number of years, but costs continue to rise and inflation has an impact on our expenditure. Regrettably, BPC has therefore decided to raise the precept by a modest amount from £24,000 to £24,500 for the next financial year. This will work out at less than £1.00 increase per household and is below the rate of inflation. We are most fortunate - as I repeat quite often - to have such an able clerk in Helen Pratt who manages to balance our books so carefully!

The Parish Council received high praise from a reporter from the NWN who had reported Bucklebury events for a number of years and was leaving the paper. He was kind enough to say that BPC was one of the most dedicated councils he had worked with, who worked as a team and worked entirely in the best interests of the parish. We are, I believe, very lucky to have such a council.

Our Parish Council website is a mine of information so, if you have a computer, please check it for up-to-date information: www.buckleburyparish.org.

Wynne Frankum, Chairman BPC.

Parish Council Matters Arising

Bucklebury Cemetery



BPC held a successful working party in the autumn when the Burial Board cleared many overgrown graves. We always work sensitively and try to clear only what seems necessary to maintain the grave.

In December we held another very successful "Carols by Candlelight" with lots of local children taking part. Lindsey McNish was again an excellent "master of ceremonies" who kept things moving with a swing. We are indebted to the Beeson family for brewing up the mulled wine and supplying the generator and lights. We were also lucky enough to have an extra sound system, and Julian Dobbins accompanied the singing on his keyboard. Lots of people made delicious mince pies and after we had taken out expenses we were able to donate £80 to "Children 1st West Berkshire" which offers a home to four 16-year-old children leaving care. Because we made the donation through the Greenham Trust, it was matched and Children 1st West Berkshire was also able to claim gift aid, so our donation became £180. We have received a very nice letter thanking us. Thank you all for donating to such a good cause.

Wynne Frankum, Chair of the Burial Board

Police Liaison Committee

Bucklebury Police Liaison Committee was formed in response to the instances of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour within the parish. This was part of a wider-reaching response from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and an increased police presence to stop the wave of crime. The Police Liaison Group's continued purpose is to try to assist the police to make their job easier.

Thames Valley Police have been highly proactive in dealing with this recent wave of crime, but without our continued support they can only achieve so much. That support comes mainly in the form of reporting criminal activity, the necessity of which cannot be over-stressed. There have also been a number of recent initiatives instigated; these have ranged from the provision of crime prevention advice at one of the local societies, to an investigation into the viability of covert, low-light cameras.

However, these initiatives are only successful with the continued assistance of parish members. Ultimately, we have to provide the police with the tools to do their job, and that basically means providing them with information about crimes

that have been or are being committed. PCSO Sarah Preston has explained elsewhere in The Oaks about communicating with the Police but, in short, if a crime is actually taking place dial 999. If you have to report a previous crime or have information about one then dial 101 or report online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/reportonline. Crime Stoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555111. You should have previously received sticky reminder labels with these numbers on; if you have not, please contact the Parish Clerk. Please do not hesitate to pass any information, however trivial it appears, to the police.

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

- **Burglaries** are still occurring, so please be vigilant, especially of garages, sheds and oil tanks, though figures for the Bucklebury area are the same as for other rural communities.
- **Speeding** is still endemic. The Police are very much aware of this, and police and WBC cameras continue to be deployed.
- **Fly-tipping** continues around different parts of the Common. If you see someone fly-tipping then please report to the police, otherwise report the rubbish to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk or to the Parish Clerk. It will normally be removed within 48 hours. Please remember that you may inadvertently become involved with fly-tipping if you give waste to an unlicensed person for disposal. Using that man and a van who offers to remove your rubbish could lead to penalties of up to £5,000, if you don't check that the company or person you give waste to has a licence to carry waste and is not taking it to an unlicensed site. Please be wary.
- **Vehicles driving on the Common** continue to be an issue. There are a number of sites around the Common where vehicles are being driven illegally. Driving anywhere off-road is illegal, as is driving on paths and bridleways, and all need to be reported to the police. Equally, it is illegal to drive on an unrestricted byway without full insurance, tax and MOT and, even with these, users need to be considerate to others, not damage the surface and observe road and bylaws. There are a number of circumstances where these requirements are not being met – there is a lot of damage to the banks of the Pang, a track has been established on the Lower Common, and there are the usual areas of 'mud plugging' (churning up tracks). The police cannot be in every location all the time so, if you see vehicles on the Common either off the byways or causing damage to the surface, please do not hesitate to contact the police. Your report will help build the intelligence as to usage that will allow the police to be pro-active in catching law-breakers. All parties involved are committed to eradicating illegal use of the common, so please report any vehicles that are not driving on byways, are damaging the surface or being driven in a

dangerous or inconsiderate manner. Photos or registrations are obviously beneficial. In a similar manner, the Hockett Field is privately owned by BPC and is not to be used for motor cycles – if your children are doing this, please stop them.

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

Bucklebury Police Liaison Group

Telephone Kiosk Book Exchange

Since the well-attended and enjoyable opening of the book exchange at the old telephone kiosk in Chapel Row last May, many books have changed hands and customers may also have learned a bit about Bucklebury's history from the dates on the window panes. Thank you all for using the kiosk and making its first year a success.



With regular book swaps, the shelves are full. For the exchange to work well, and shelves not to collapse under the weight of the books, please remember that the idea is that for every book taken in, another should be taken out. One or two people have cleared out their cupboards and taken in bags of books, which means that we have to remove them, fill up our car boots and take them down to a charity shop! We would however welcome more children's books.

We have relied on you all not to leave advertising material and to be vigilant of graffiti artists, so thank you all for being respectful of our telephone box. In December we thought we

would celebrate Christmas by installing a Christmas tree. It fitted perfectly and had pretty decorations, but you are all such avid readers that you found it inconvenient not to be able to swap your books in the holiday time. After a week, it was removed to allow bookworms continued access.

When the kiosk opened, we thought we might occasionally put on alternative art or local interest exhibitions, or maybe have other kinds of swaps such as surplus fruit and veg, or seeds. Perhaps we need to rethink this? Please contact either Angela Willis on angelahuggett@hotmail.com or Lindy Clarke at lindy.clarke@live.co.uk with your comments.

The Telephone Kiosk Working Party.

Welcome Pack

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

Parish Website

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

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

Bucklebury Clubs/Organisations

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

West Berks 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 101.

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

As I write this we have had more snow than we have had for some years so we are pleased to report that an extra £920,000 has been allocated to West Berkshire to spend on essential road maintenance. This money is part of a fund announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement to be spent over two years and will be used for road resurfacing or repairing damage to roads caused by severe weather such as freezing or flooding. This is extra funding and will be used to increase the amount of repair work in addition to the Council's annual resurfacing/repair fund. Before Christmas many of the worst parts of Broad Lane were repaired and Burden's Heath and Turner's Green are on the list to renovate in the near future.

Remaining on the theme of flooding, we were relieved for the residents of the village that the flood alleviation scheme has proved it's worth during and after the torrential rain in December. Well done to Piers and all who worked so hard to make the scheme a success. A meeting was held recently at the ford to the west of the village with one of the Council's highway engineers to discuss how we can reduce water levels in and around the ford which has had a record amount of water flowing through it for the past couple of months. We discussed various ideas to reduce the water level in the ford, to reduce flooding on the Marlston Road and to tackle the damage to the smaller ford (that lies just to the west of the main ford) caused by illegal use of 4x4 vehicles and to prevent them gaining access to the river at this point. This damage has led to fields between the Pang and the Marlston Road being flooded as the river banks are broken down so further meetings will take place involving the local land owners as well as the Councils, both District and Parish.

Work is continuing on the next stage of the Local Plan. The main document was adopted in July 2012 and the next task is

to allocate specific sites. Although Bucklebury has not been selected for development it may be of interest to see what is planned and where. Potentially one of the larger sites nearby likely to be developed is the IAH (Institute of Animal Health) site at Compton which is set to close and is at the early stage of being considered for housing and local employment. If you want any more details, please contact us. It has also just been announced that the application to build a new Ikea store in Calcot, near Sainsburys, is likely to go ahead. Permission was granted last summer but there was a delay while the decision was possibly going to be referred to a judicial review. It has just been announced that the review has been withdrawn so that the plans for Ikea can now go ahead. There are many other issues we are involved with reported elsewhere in The Oaks like the flooding referred to above, the illegal 4x4 drivers and the Police Liaison Committee. Please contact us if we can be of any further help with any Council matter.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2013.

Graham Pask & Quentin Webb.

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</i>	<i>01635 864256</i>
Bucklebury Village	<i>B Ward</i>	<i>0118 971 2581</i>
Hatch Close	<i>C Fleming</i>	<i>0118 971 2315</i>
Hatch Lane(central)	<i>Frank Harvell</i>	<i>0118 971 0021</i>
The Avenue (east end, south side)	<i>Mrs J Bynwater</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>Geraldine Tovey</i>	<i>01635 866757</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.

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a happy new year. Over the period there have been a few issues in the area and we would like to make you aware of them and request your help in solving them.

4x4 motor vehicles are having a big impact on the landscape and affecting the river banks with the manner in which they have been driven. Some are using it as their playground causing damage, flooding and pollution. I know that some local residents have attempted to take photographs and challenge these people and have not had nice experiences. Only do this if you feel safe to do so, but getting a good look at the vehicle and obtaining its number and a description of the driver would be really helpful. Please report any incidents either by calling 101 or 999 as appropriate.

Fuel thefts are of concern to us. Many offences are occurring in our policing area over the winter period and large quantities are being taken from oil tanks. Please keep an eye out for any unusual vehicles in the area, including enclosed vans or those which have bowsers on the back. Call in any suspicious activity and record vehicle numbers so we can research their legitimacy. Again, if you see any suspicious vehicles, call 101 or 999. Consider the protection of your own fuel tanks by surrounding them on 3 sides with thorny planting or fencing, and by fitting lock alarms for the fuel caps. Perimeter alarms around the tank are also a good idea; set them at waist-height so that they are not activated by wildlife. Also, keep an eye on the oil level so that you are aware if any fuel is taken. Sometimes, if the tank is not emptied completely it could take a while to notice the theft.

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
paula.morgan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Sarah Preston C9881

Family

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!

Before the Christmas holidays we had a Christmas crafts evening where we made decorations for our Christmas Party. This was held on Friday 14th December and was lots of fun. Our activities are decided by our members, with some guidance from club leaders who are all CRB checked and First Aid trained.

We are looking forward to the upcoming months for activities and the start of competitions. This month we have a trip to The John Nike Leisure Centre for some ice-skating, a First Aid talk and also our Member of the Year competition.

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

Jessica Dewey

1st Bucklebury Rangers

Rangers is a flexible, fun programme open to girls from their 14th birthday. The new Rangers Unit starts on the 18th January 2013, meeting alternate Fridays at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall from 7.00pm until 9.00pm. If any Guides or girls are interested in joining they should contact Kate, Sharon or Sara at: BuckleburyRangers@yahoo.co.uk.

Kate, Sharon & Sara.

Friends of Bucklebury Primary School

We are pleased to announce that Bucklebury Church Of England Primary School has organised a textile collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for the school's development plans.



Bag2School are the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 they have paid out over £15 million.

Bucklebury School has already arranged several very successful used-textile collections within the school and we would now like to open the scheme to the local community.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for our school, the collections also benefit the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However, it is a fact that as a nation we still send 1,081,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year. Further details regarding how Bag2School works can also be found on their website at www.bag2school.com.

By getting involved in our Bag2School collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles – this can include adult's and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, bags, soft toys, curtains and bedding (not duvets or pillows). We will receive **£500 per tonne or £0.50/kg** which will be a great boost for our fundraising. In addition it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

Donation bags are available for collection at the school, or any other large plastic bag can be used to donate items. Bag2School will be collecting from the school on **Thursday 14th March.**

Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Bucklebury School before 9.00am on the morning of the 14th March (unfortunately donations cannot be left at the school prior to this) and help us to have a really good collection. For any enquiries, or if you are unable to deliver your bag to the school on the 14th, please contact Cheryl Gadsby on 01635 866731.

Cheryl Gadsby.

1st Bucklebury Guides



Girlguiding

1st Bucklebury Guides

girls in the lead

Yet another busy term was had for autumn 2012. After the antics of our summer camp in the New Forest, we were joined by yet more starters in September,

keeping our unit numbers at 36, still one of the largest and most popular units in the area. In the first half of the term we attended the Beerfest with various stalls to raise money for the three girls from our unit who have been selected to participate in an international trip to Iceland in the middle of 2013. We also helped out at the autumn Common Clearing and attended the Remembrance Service where the Guides laid a wreath in honour for those who have fallen in recent conflicts.

As well as trying to get out into the community to help others, the girls worked towards the usual interest badges and Go For Its to broaden their own horizons. Last term we had great fun doing the Outdoor Cook badge and learning how to cook a three-course meal on various heat sources. We also did the Animal Active badge and learned about different animals that are trained to help people. We were lucky enough to have a Guide dog and his owner come and visit. We learned about the huge benefit these animals can have on the lives of those who are sight-impaired. We also had discussions about our own animals, how to care for them, and when and why they may need veterinary help. We also had a debating session on what animals should be used for: is it OK to use animals for medical science; is it a bad idea to breed pedigree dogs; are sports like horse racing cruel? The responses were very interesting and the girls came up with some very well thought out comments.

We are glad to report that another three girls within the unit have successfully completed their Baden Powell Awards; Olivia Holden, Saskia Pocock and Elizabeth Miller. This is a great achievement indeed as an awful lot of effort is required to complete all the work required for this award, so well done all.

On our last meeting of term we had the usual Christmas party and awards ceremony and welcomed the girls starting with us in January. As always, these events are a celebration of achievement for the girls, but are also sadly a time when we have to say goodbye to those who have come to the end of their time at Guides. As Bucklebury Guides has exploded in popularity and numbers over the past couple of years, we are happy to announce that a brand new Ranger Unit for those over 14 years of age has been opened to accommodate those girls who are too old to remain in our unit. So, with a little sadness we said goodbye to Vicky Pratt, Saskia Pocock, Natasha Price, Katie Tompkins, Lara Green and Olivia Holden. We wish them luck in their future endeavours.

And lastly, just before Christmas we held our annual Christmas sleep-over as a warm up to the main event. The girls had great fun with crafts, games, cooking and a pamper session, before watching a film and munching on pizza and popcorn. In the morning we enjoyed presents from Father Christmas and a lovely cooked breakfast before we cleared up and went home for the holidays.

With so much going on, and with a new Ranger Unit up and running, we still are in need of other adults to come and help, even if it is not every week. I asked the girls if they could write a job description for what they thought made a good Guide leader, and I have put this below. If this appeals to you, or you want more information, please do get in contact via e-mail: elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk

Your Local Guide Unit needs YOU:

Do you consider yourself outgoing, fun, child-friendly, committed and, most of all, are you free on a Friday night? Can you make a difference to the next generation? Do you want to have fun, make new friends and try new things? Then Guides is for you. You need to be fun, creative, imaginative, funny and generally nice and caring. Organisational skills are essential as fab trips, camps and groovy activities are required. Bags of energy are needed, plus possibly a little patience. Applicants must be a little crazy, a bit loopy, but totally cool. Volunteer today: make a difference by sharing the love and giving something back to the community.

Claire Powers Email: elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk

West Berkshire Ballet School

Christmas term was full of excitement and expectation as rehearsals began for our major production at Arlington Arts on 1st and 2nd June, 2013.

The modern dancers will be performing our own version of 'Aladdin' and the ballet students will dance 'Cinderella'. We shall have a combined cast of 135 ranging in age from 5 to 18 years, and, for the first time, we shall be joined by 40 dancers from Aldbourne Ballet School.

The students have been busy with costume fittings and, of course, getting to know the beautiful music that Claire, Holly and Jane have selected for the two productions.

Father Christmas paid us his annual visit at the end of term and was rewarded with some lovely dancing from the junior classes and, as you will see from our photograph, the senior students were in a festive mood!



Claire, Holly & Jane getting in the festive spirit with some of the senior students

We had an important exam session at the end of term for 7 ballet students and have just received an amazing set of results with 5 Distinctions and 2 Special Merits.

Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden & Holly Unnuk

A Highland Ceilidh

*With Exhibition and Scottish Dancing
Pibroch and Songs*

We are having another Ceilidh in the Victory Room this year with Pipe Major Ron Patterson and the St. Andrew's Scottish Dancers. They will be in full Highland dress and will demonstrate and lead the programme of reels, strathspeys and jigs and everyone can join in as usual.

There will of course be the piping in of the haggis and a two course supper and dancing will commence after the toasts

*In the Victory Room,
Bucklebury Village
at 7.30 pm on*

Saturday 23rd February 2013

*Tickets £15 each and further information
from Alastair McOran-Campbell 0118 9713325
mcoran@btinternet.com*

Organisations

Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society

One year ago we were on the verge of the local Water Company introducing emergency drought measures, and there were stern warnings of difficult times to come during the summer. They were correct about difficult times, but not the sort they had in mind! It turned out to be one of the dullest, wettest years on record. How come, with all their computers, the "experts" still get it completely wrong? Just now there is not a lot to be done in Bucklebury's water-logged gardens, but our members are already out of the blocks. With the new 2013 schedules still hot off the press, the first evening meeting took place only two days into the New Year. Thanks to our Chairman's new electronic communication system we had a massive attendance, on a dark, dank winter's evening, to experience a virtual excursion to Northern Spain, presented by Malcolm Brownsword. It was well worth the effort of leaving a warm fireside. The Picos de Europa was shown to be a rarely visited area of varied flora and fauna, with spectacular mountain scenery. The main presentation concluded with three short audio visual excursions to the West Hagbourne dragon festival, the autumn colours of Westonbirt Arboretum, and a close view into the secrets of the local countryside. Since then members' seed orders have been arriving and delivery is expected soon.

Our next presentation, on Friday 22nd February, is about flowers from north of the Arctic Circle and we are optimistic that this will be equally entertaining and well supported. After that, on 22nd March, Crissy Clemson from Whitewater Nurseries will encourage us to try some of the many recent introductions in the horticultural world. So if you are unsure of what you could grow, or need a new reliable plant for a stunning effect, come along to the Memorial Hall.

On Monday evening, 8th April, we will hold our Spring Show. Bring along your best early blooms, or just come along and enjoy the display and the company of fellow gardeners. During May we are running two trips. The first is on Saturday 11th, to the Malvern Spring Show, and we hope it will repeat the success of the trip we enjoyed about five years ago. Then the following week we will set off to the Savill Garden, part of Windsor Great Park. Members will know that we have been trying to arrange this visit for the last two years. The gardens should be magnificent on this weekend, and the Valley Gardens and Virginia Waters are both close-by. Both coach trips leave Bucklebury at

9.30am and return around 5pm. Costs depend on numbers but, as regular trippers will know, they are good value and not run for profit.

Details of all our activities are included in our 2013 schedule. New members are always welcomed by John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy Gardening.

Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

St. Martin's Club

The Club's summer activities begin in April with the following coach outings:-

2 nd April	Mystery Trip
7 th May	Visit to Greenwich
4 th June	Maidenhead to Windsor Boat Trip
2 nd July	Abergavenny and Brecon Mountain Railway
6 th August	Bournemouth
3 rd September	West Midlands Safari Park
1 st October	Tower of London

St Martin's is a Club for the residents of Bucklebury aged 60 plus. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, in the Memorial Hall during the months of November to March, and then from April to October we go out on coach trips to various parts of the country. The outings are primarily for Club members but, where seats are available, visitors may join us. If you would like to join in our activities please contact Reg Allum on 01189 713716 or Ron Mather on 01635 864310. For further information on the coach trips please contact Pat Bodsworth on 01635 864310.

Pat Bodsworth.

Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



The club had a successful mini Christmas shopping evening in November with jewellery and Phoenix cards and wrapping paper available for purchase.

Our entry into the Christmas Tree festival run by Bucklebury Community Events was made by one of our members, Janet Ford, who decorated a wonderful snowy Christmas tree. We won first prize in our category of "Community Group" and gave half the money back to be donated to Loose Ends (a homeless charity in Newbury) and



TLC Christmas Party

spent the other half on some exciting raffle prizes for our Christmas party.

Our Christmas party was on 10th December. Everyone brought food and one of our ladies kindly did a fun quiz for us all. We had crackers and Christmas music to make us all feel festive.

On January 8th we had a talk by Jo Firth, a local potter, who brought some slides on Raku pottery and some samples for us to look at.

Next month (12th Feb), Jo Andreae will be giving a talk on photography and her new ventures. Check out her website www.oneworlddonecamera.co.uk.

Details of our club and future events can now be found on the Bucklebury Parish website www.buckleburyparish.org/tuesday-ladies-club.

Monthly subs are £2 per session, which includes free tea, coffee and biscuits. New people are always welcome.

Christie Morris and Wynne Frankum

christie.morr1s@btopenworld.com

Co-chairs, TLC

Diary Dates:

2nd March – The History of Woods – Dick Greenaway.

9th April – Easter meal at the Cottage Inn.

14th May - The Wine Man – talk and tastings given by the wine shop in Yattendon.

11th June - Chieveley Garden visit.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan acts as a key contact for those suffering from all kinds of cancer. It is a source of specialist information and emotional support for people with cancer from the moment they are diagnosed. We are fortunate in Berkshire that we have 18 specialist Macmillan nurses working from The Royal Berkshire Hospital to help people with many different types of cancer including breast, bowel and head and neck cancers.

The Cancer Care Centre at The Royal Berkshire Hospital is there to advise on all aspects emotional, medical, financial. Do not hesitate to contact them or The Macmillan Support Line free on 0808 808 00 00

Our Annual Christmas Concert on Saturday December 1st 2012 at St. Nicolas Church, Newbury, jointly held with The Newbury and District Cancer Care Trust was very successful, raising the grand sum of £18,000 for the two charities. This is all thanks to your support and commitment.

Our next event is Afternoon Tea and Antiques with Thomas Plant of SAS Antiques, Greenham, Newbury.

This will be held at The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village, Tuesday 23rd April 2013, St. George's Day. Tickets will be £15.00. This includes afternoon tea, appraisal of one item you may wish to bring, talk by Thomas Plant and an antique Quiz. Please contact me if you require tickets.

Any ideas or fundraising you wish to do for Macmillan, please contact me on the number below. If you have a spare hour or two and would be willing to help with our street/ shop collections you would be very welcome.

Please continue your support. It is very necessary and much appreciated.

Erica Tipton 0118 971 2148

E mail erica.tipton@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman – Macmillan Cancer Support Newbury Committee.

History Walk around Bucklebury with Dick Greenaway

On Sunday 21st October Dick Greenaway, from the West Berkshire Countryside Society, led a walk, in conjunction with The Bucklebury History Group, around Bucklebury. About 60 people started from and ended at The Victory Room in Bucklebury Village.

The Victory Room was originally bought from The Frilsham Football Club and erected to commemorate the 37 men killed in WW1.

The first stop was **The Old Foundry** which was started in the 17th century and run for many years by the Hedges family, who lived at The Foundry House. The business has been studied by the rural historians of Reading University. There are many examples of cast iron work from the foundry in local churches and the cast iron nameplate on the pillar in front of the house was made in the rare Bucklebury cupola furnace, now



Dick Greenaway talking to the History Group Walkers about the iron crosses made in Bucklebury Foundry

preserved at Ironbridge museum. The foundry business closed in the 1970s and the building was converted into two houses in 1985-86, with the waterwheel still remaining on the north side, seen from the gardens of The Foundry House. A set of ledgers survive for the years 1736-73, which was published as a booklet. (see also *A Berkshire Foundry* by J.Kenneth Major: *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol 65. and *Felicity Palmer's Booklet about the Foundry*. Reading Local Studies have a copy. It is very good.)

Next stop was **St Mary's Church**. A church was mentioned in 1070 and it is possible that it may have been built then. The nave is the original church with the tower being built in the 15th century. The doorway is Norman, added in about 1170. There are two very faint mass dials scratched in the porch showing that originally there was no porch to block the sunlight. The **Winchcombe** family re-modelled the church in 1591 and the porch was built in 1663. The very lovely gate on the Eastern

path was made at the foundry in 1827. The carving on the church tower shows a man pulling a wheel and may refer to the Winchcombe family. We noted a conglomerate in the wall of the Church to the right of the porch, pointed out by Lesley Dunlop from Northumbria University, who had not seen this type of material used in West Berkshire before although it is used around Wokingham and Warfield. *(Conglomerate is a sedimentary rock that contains large (greater than two millimetres in diameter) rounded clasts. The space between the clasts is generally filled with smaller particles and/or a chemical cement that binds the rock together. As a clastic sedimentary rock it can contain clasts of any rock material or weathering product that is washed downstream or down current. The rounded clasts of conglomerate can be mineral particles such as quartz or they can be sedimentary, metamorphic or igneous rock fragments. The matrix that binds the large clasts together can be a mixture of sand, mud and chemical cement. Conglomerate forms where a sediment of rounded clasts at least two millimetres in diameter accumulates. It takes a strong water current to transport and shape particles this large. So the environment of deposition might be along a swiftly flowing stream or a beach with strong waves. There must also be a source of large-size sediment particles somewhere up current. The rounded shape of the clasts reveal that they were tumbled by running water or moving waves).*

We noted **The Old Post Office**, backing onto the churchyard, dating from the 16-17th centuries. Also **The Glebe Cottages** as we left via the west gate.

We walked a little way up the road past the last house on the left to the footpath leading up to **Redhill Copse** and the Common. The track leads past some ancient trees, some several hundred years old. We noted the sawpit on the left hand side. Roman tiles have been found near this area and the name 'Redhill' reinforces the theory of tile manufacture. *(A new project for the History Group might be to try to ascertain if there are heaps or areas of red soil [hard to see after so many years] or signs of a Roman brickworks and evidence of quarrying etc. in the copse, to prove this theory. More on this another time.)*

At the top of the path we come to **'Vanners'** *(this should be Vanner's as on the OS map of 1877)* as the family name goes back to at least 1619 when Francis Winchcombe left his 'late servant', Anne Vanner, £200 in his will.

We then took a left hand path to view a **Pollard Oak**, which has a girth of 5.29 meters. As a maiden tree (not pollarded) it would be about 300 years old but pollarding has slowed its growth and it is probably at least 450 years old.

Further on we came to **The Coronation Oak**, which is a sessile oak and is a 'double tree' created when two acorns on a twig both germinated and grew so closely together that their trunks fused. The plaque on the tree reads -

Beneath this tree on the
Coronation Day of Edward VII 1902
Divine Service was conducted by the
Rev. Cecil Hope Gill M.A. Vicar of
Bucklebury and attended by about
One thousand two hundred persons.

The Coronation took place on Saturday, August 9th, 1902

(delayed from June because of the King's illness) and parishioners marched from the Avenue, led by the Bradfield Band, down to the school in the village, where the children joined them. After the planting of an oak tree at Mulberry Corner in the village by Mrs. Webley-Parry (a niece of Mr Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, former Lord of the Manor, on whom the Manor of Bucklebury had been settled in 1906), the procession continued up Pease Hill to Nuttage Cottage and then across the common to Vanner's Barn, where tea was served to the children, who also received a Coronation mug.

The open air service took place at 4.00pm under the oak tree and afterwards the adults had tea whilst the children played organised games. At nine o'clock the procession reformed and proceeded to Tomlin's Farm, where a bonfire was lit at ten o'clock, along with all the other beacons in England, and fireworks followed.

When you see all the vegetation surrounding the Coronation Oak today it is hard to imagine the amount of people who stood underneath in 1902, but as you look up you will see that it must have been of significant size even then.

Vanner's Barn belonged to the manor – it was used for storing hay and straw. In the early 1900s the Sunday School children used the barn for their annual tea party. The barn was re-thatched in the 1950s before, sadly, being destroyed by fire in 1985. Thus Bucklebury lost one of its well-known landmarks. A thatched cottage near Vanner's Barn was destroyed by fire in the 1940s.

Back on the main path we proceeded to head east to **Pease Hill** (going in the reverse direction to the procession of 1902!). **Nuttage Gate** is opposite the footpath on the hill. In 1696 Peter Marshall was ordered to provide a new gate 'at the upper end of Nuttage Lane'. All roads onto the Common were originally gated because sheep, cattle and horses used to be grazed on the common and gates were used in order to stop the animals roaming outside the area. As motorised traffic increased fewer animals were grazed and the gates fell into disrepair. The house is listed as a 17th century timber-framed cottage.

Up the hill and on the left (opposite Nuttage House) is a path down to the **Fish Ponds**. Early in the 12th century Henry I granted the Manor to his new Abbey at Reading, and the Abbott had a manor house built in the village where there are three more ponds. A dovecote housed the birds kept to supplement the sparse supply of winter meat and a mill by the River Pang ground the corn. The ponds were created by damming a stream flowing from the gravels where it passes through a deep narrow gully. Religious rules in medieval times decreed that no meat should be eaten on Fridays so fish was eaten instead. These ponds were almost certainly created by Reading Abbey to supply fish to the monks.

The Wellingtonia Trees or *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, were introduced from North America in 1858 and seedlings were

available at a cost of one guinea (£1.05) each. The trees here on the Common are not old (154 years at most) compared to the oldest one in America, 'General Sherman' at 107m (350ft) tall and 3,500 years old!

Across the road from The Fish Ponds we took the footpath to see a **Pillow Mound**. Recently cleared by members of The West Berkshire Countryside Society you could clearly see the shape. Pillow Mounds are artificial rabbit warrens. These were built by Reading Abbey, probably in the 13th century after the fish ponds were formed in the 12th century. The mound is built over a network of tunnels from which the rabbits were easily caught using ferrets and nets. The netting seems to have been one of the duties of the ladies. Rabbits were very valuable animals as the fur was used to line winter clothing and the flesh was considered a delicacy. Warreners' houses were often strongly built to resist attack by gangs wanting to steal pelts. Latterly, rabbit fur was used to make the felt for top hats – this process used mercury which affected hatters' nervous systems, hence the term 'mad as a hatter'!

We then crossed the common heading westwards along the concrete track used during **WWII** when the common was used to stockpile military equipment in the run up to D Day. The surface was scraped clean of soil at this time and dumped on the other side of the road in large mounds. The people servicing the vehicles and stores lived in huts near the path and some of the foundations of these can still be seen. After the war homeless people lived in the huts until eventually being rehoused.

Bucklebury saw camps of Cromwell's soldiers camped on the common before the **2nd Battle of Newbury**. There are 3 burials in the churchyard of men killed during the conflict. One of them was Richard Buxie, the burial record says *'he was a souldier of the Kinge who was slaine by a Parliament souldier at Chapell Rowe and was buried 29th April 1644'*. Richard Warde was a Lieutenant for Parliament and was buried October 29th, 1644. No trace remains of the three graves.

The vicar of Bucklebury at that time was the Rev. Guy Carlton, who was arrested for his royalist sympathies. He was taken to London and imprisoned at Lambeth House but, with the help of his wife, escaped in a boat on the Thames and joined King Charles II in exile. After the Restoration he eventually became the Bishop of Chichester therefore making him one of the more famous Vicars of Bucklebury. The Restoration also created the third Henry Winchcombe a baronet in 1661 for his loyalty to the Royalist causes.

We rejoined the main track near Osgood's Gully and followed this to the footpath at the top of **Bucklebury Farm Park**, opened in 1992. Walking through the park we saw many of the animals enjoying life there.

Back onto Pease Hill we passed **Bucklebury House**, thought to be on the site of the residence built for the Abbot of Reading Abbey. This was demolished and a new house built by John Winchcombe in about 1550. This was, sadly, burned down in 1830 and the present house was built in 1957. Many

of the original outbuildings survived the fire, including the dovecote and the old kitchen (where Bucklebury History Group were lucky enough to hold the successful open day in 2010).

We followed the road back to the Victory Room and some very welcome tea and cake just as the rain started. An excellent afternoon and very many thanks go to Dick Greenaway for his time and expertise.

WBCS have produced a booklet of three local walks - including this one - at a very reasonable price and it includes maps and pictures. Details are on their website. <http://www.westberkscountryside.org.uk/> or from Dick Greenaway, rg.greenaway@btinternet.com

References:

BUCKLEBURY HISTORY / Dick Greenaway 2012.

AROUND THE VALLEY OF THE PANG / Dick Greenaway 2007

AROUND THE 3 VALLEYS / Dick Greenaway & Lesley Dunlop 2011

IN THE VALLEY OF THE PANG / Dick Greenaway & Dorcas Ward

BUCKLEBURY'S HERITAGE / Cecilia Millson 1994

BUCKLEBURY FOUNDRY / Felicity Palmer

**Bucklebury History
Group**
TUESDAY 30th APRIL
7.30p.m. in The Victory Room,
Bucklebury Village
Another chance to:-
Hear more stories about our village
Tell us about any memories that you have
Help us put names to our unknown
photographs
Please bring along any old photos that you
are willing to share
Refreshments
Small charge to cover cost of hire of the
hall

Bucklebury Community Events

Recent Events

Our Christmas Tree Festival took place on Saturday 1st December 2012 and was well attended throughout the day especially when Father Christmas paid us a visit in the afternoon! We had three prize categories this year, the "Children's" category which was won by Bucklebury Primary School, "Community Group" which was won by the Tuesday Ladies' Club (half of the £50 prize money was donated back to BE) and "Business Group" was won by Acorn Garden Care. Adrian Bend, a local gardener, is also a BE committee member and he kindly donated his prize money back to BE. We also held a raffle and Guess the Weight of the cake.

We lit up the churchyard on Sunday 23rd December and delighted churchgoers on their exit from the church after the annual Carol Service. Sales of tealights (which were available from outside Peaches Stores on the run up to the 23rd) also contributed to donations made to the charities Crisis at Christmas and Loose Ends, the latter a local charity based in Newbury. Our contribution of £125 to Loose Ends is being made via the Greenham Common Trust "findmeagrants.org" website, which matches our £125 and then claims Gift Aid from the government (on the original amount) so our initial contribution ends up as £281! Their current project is a kitchen refurbishment and they are well on their way to achieving their goal. There are lots of different worthwhile charities listed on the Find Me a Grant website if you are interested in giving to worthy causes. The Crisis at Christmas donation of £235, which included donations made at the Farm Park Carol Service, was made in time for Christmas.

Liz Peplow pulled together a fantastic calendar of Bucklebury scenes which were photographed by local residents. Sales went well and we may repeat the project in 2014. A few 2013 calendars are still available from Peach's, local pubs and the Bucklebury Farm Park.

Looking Forward

Our Burns' Night preparations are well underway for Saturday, 26th January at Memorial Hall and tickets are selling fast (although by the time you are reading this the event will have been and gone!). Lindsey McNish will be our compère and Jim Reeves, our piper. As usual the dedicated Bucklebury Event staff will be preparing and serving the food.

Our next event is a **Quiz Night at Woody's, Bucklebury Farm Park on 9th March, 2013**. A warm and cosy venue, it provides a great atmosphere for the legendary Phil Laybourne quiz night. Teams of between 6 and 8 are invited to take part. Tickets are priced at **£8** which includes a ploughman's supper and will sell out fast for this one so call **Wynne Frankum, 16 Berry's Road, Upper Bucklebury on 01635 863372** or

Christie Morris on 01635 876188 before it's too late!

Our big summer event takes the form of a **Jazz Festival at Bucklebury Farm Party on Saturday 22nd June** – we hope that we will be blessed with good weather! We are lucky enough to be able to use their fantastic facilities again this year. The event runs from 12 noon until 10pm and will feature a range of artists and styles together with a hog roast, beer tent, craft show and all the usual Farm Park entertainment for the children. **Tickets will be on sale from March** so look out for more details locally.

Thank you to everyone who came to an event or who supported Bucklebury Events in 2012 – we intend to go from strength to strength in 2013!

Christie Morris—Chair

Bucklebury Community Events

Diary Dates:

9th March – Quiz Night at Woody's, Bucklebury Farm Park.

22nd June – Jazz Festival, 12 noon until 10.00pm, Bucklebury Farm Park



Bucklebury Walkers

Forty-two members of the walking group (and some partners) celebrated the end of another year of walking by enjoying a wonderful meal at The Cottage Inn. Both food and company were excellent and a good time was had by all. Gary & Mandy and all the staff at the pub looked after us extremely well and we would like to say how lucky we are that they are members of our community. In appreciation the walkers presented them with a 'Blue Welly Award' as thanks for all the many cups of coffee they provide over the year!

We have a varied list of walks this coming year and welcome all on our social walks.

For more information please see the diary in this edition of The Oaks or contact me, Helen Relf, helenrelf@relfsociety.org 01635 867619.



Walkers enjoying the first walk of 2013.

Halls

Re-development of The Victory Room

The Trustees of the Victory Room met last December to discuss the extension or rebuilding of the well loved Victory Room. The hall, which is now 90 years old, was donated to the Parish and moved next to the recreation ground from its original site in Frilsham.



Although the hall has considerable internal charm it is a matter of fact that the exterior has become shabby and the facilities inside are very basic, particularly in the kitchen, toilet, and storage areas. The site is long and narrow and the space available is not efficiently used. There is unused space on three sides of the hall.

As a starting point the residents of Bucklebury Village were asked how they would like to see the site developed. There was an overwhelming desire to see the building extended or rebuilt in sympathy with its environment and its historical context.

The small size of the site precludes a much larger building but the wish list so far would indicate that some increase in size but not significant height is required. It was suggested that whatever was developed should be green and cheap to run, and connection to the main sewer will be an important improvement.

Another significant view is that the hall should be a community hall with facilities to encourage the use of the recreation ground by sporting groups such as the Wolves junior footballers and Bucklebury Cricket Club. It should be readily available to the whole Parish for meetings, post church events, and one-off special and private occasions. A Saturday market for local produce has also been mooted.

The wish list of facilities included a wider main hall, a removable stage, a room for spectators, a committee room, significant secure storage for regular users, a superior kitchen, changing rooms, modern toilet facilities with outside access, and facilities for the disabled.

The purpose of this article is to invite all parishioners to tell the Trustee committee what facilities they would like to see on the Victory Room site by filling in the questionnaire and sending it back using the several routes described, or by emailing the Chairman John Clarke at john.clarke@live.co.uk. An online version of the questionnaire can also be found linked from the Parish website, or you can type this URL into your browser www.surveymonkey.com/s/TTVTHQ2. Please complete the questionnaire by the end of February.

On **Saturday April 27th** there will be an open meeting at the Victory Room where we plan to display the work of three architects showing design and layout choices, costings both for extension and rebuild, and future running costs. Following the Open Meeting one architect will be chosen and the fundraising will begin.

John Clarke

Chair of the Trustees of The Victory Room

0118 9712768

john.clarke@live.co.uk

Bucklebury Beerfest 6th October 2012

The 4th Bucklebury Beerfest turned out to be a fantastic event – full sunshine on the day, a happy crowd of families and friends, all enjoying this annual event on the Bucklebury Recreation Ground.

The crowds came out to enjoy the family-fun atmosphere, visiting the 17 trade and community group stands, listening to the live music, and of course sampling the local beer and cider. A number of new things were added this year – the Pimms went down well, plus the artisan bread & cheese stands. The organising committee plans to extend the 'farmers' market / local produce' offering next year, as this was a welcome addition to the Beerfest.

The great news is that it was an incredibly successful day too – almost £4,000 was raised for the Victory Room, which is a record for the Beerfest. These funds will give a huge boost to the funding for the hall's extension plans. The toilets need modernising to allow for disabled access, and additional storages space would enable the trustees to purchase new chairs. As a registered charity, the Victory Room depends on events like this to keep it maintained and available for the local community.

Our sponsors, trade stands and volunteers really made the Beerfest possible, and the committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make it a memorable day. For the first time, the planning committee was made up of both the Victory Room trustees and the Bucklebury Events Committee. We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support of the Bucklebury Events team, and look forward to working together on 2013's event.

Mark your 2013 diaries – the Beerfest will be held on Saturday, 5th October. Planning will start in April, and we'd welcome all ideas and support. If you have any suggestions on how the Beerfest could be even better, please let us know.

Anne Ryder on behalf of the Victory Room Committee.

Sports

Bucklebury Cricket Club



For Bucklebury Cricket Club, 2012 was our most successful year, measured both as the percentage of matches won and the actual number of matches won. The club finished the season having played 15 games, won 13, drawn 0, lost 2 with 4 games cancelled or abandoned due to weather. Well done to all who were involved.

We welcomed several new recruits from the area this year: Ed Smith, Harry Warburton, Freddie Mills, Alastair Kane, Stephen Pope, Will Markham, Jake Parmenter, Miles Hodgkiss, Roddy Thomson, Rob Walker and Will Wright, and we saw the return of James Theunissen, who hadn't played for us for at least 10 years.

The match between the Chairman's XI and the Captain's XI was again a most enjoyable occasion, watched by many of the Club's generous supporters and followed by a BBQ. The match saw the Captain's XI beat the Chairman's XI.

The biggest change of the year was our move to the ground at Yattendon, after many years playing at Brockhurst School. Particular thanks have to go to Alex Bingley for organising the many painting parties at the Yattendon pavilion during the winter: thanks to all of those who did the painting and to all of those who were on the pitch rota. Without the volunteers helping to roll and mow, we wouldn't have had the pitch to play on. Thanks also during the season to the Royal Oak that kindly supplied our teas.

On the pitch, the most noticeable team performances were:

Beating Cold Ash by just 5 runs (it was close)

An opening stand of 205 at Ashford Hill (whom we beat)

Beating Speen by 7 wickets (in the rain)

Beating Woodlands by 86 runs

Beating Peasemore by 243 runs. And they thoroughly enjoyed it too.

Beating the Chelsea Nomads by just 3 wickets in a very close match

And also a 3 wickets win away at Astons in deepest, darkest Oxfordshire

We held our annual prize giving in early January at the Blade Bone. The cup winners were: Alex Bingley (Batting), Tom Pettifer (Bowling), Roddy Thomson (the Captain's Cup), Will Wright (the Young Player Award) and Roger Ambler (the

Champagne Moment).

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

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

For more information contact:

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

Bucklebury Tennis Club

Yes, we can still talk about tennis even though winter is taking its toll on the opportunities to play! JUST think positive and you too can enjoy the game!

Newbury District Winter League

The format for the league this year has changed and we now are confined to Mixed Tennis only. Bucklebury TC has been brave enough to nominate 3 teams - Results so far do not quite live up to our summer league successes but we are hoping for better luck in the second half of the season.

Details of the league positions to date are as follows:

Team	Captain	Division	Played	Points	Position
Mixed A	Darren Blackwood	1	3	16	2 nd
Mixed B	Darren Blackwood	1	2	5	5 th
Mixed C	Robin London	2	5	12	4 th
Vets A	Paul Munton	1	6	Won 6	
Vets B	Norman Casson	2	6	Won 4	

Newbury & District League results for Bucklebury T.C.

Vets' Matches

This competition is open to both Men and Ladies, and we certainly have benefited from the influx of several ladies who have helped to achieve our first half of the season's successes. There is no doubt that Bucklebury is gaining in quality and strength of numbers in the "seniors" ranks anyway! Well done!

Junior Coaching

We plan to start our Junior coaching programme in March this year (first week back after half term). Depending on numbers,

we will have three sessions, the first for the younger members at 3.30pm., the second following on at 4.30pm and a third session for teenagers at 5.30pm. This programme is open to all children under 16, whether they are members of the Club or not. It will be on Monday afternoons and will continue through the term time for the Spring term, Summer term and the early part of the Autumn term. Sessions can be booked with any Committee member or our new volunteer coordinator, Yvonne Riches (e-mail tennis@stedding.co.uk) General enquires on this programme can also be directed to Yvonne or to Mike James.

Club Membership

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

Bucklebury Badminton Club

Thanks to Get Berkshire Active, we were very pleased to welcome over 20 local young people to our free coaching sessions which ran during October, November and December. Chris Tompkins, a local professional coach, delivered the



Participants in the coaching sessions

training with the help of many volunteers from the club. Over half of the participants have now joined and some are even playing in matches.

We continue to welcome new members and visitors. Club nights are on Tuesday evenings at Elstree School in Woolhampton from 8.00pm to 10.00pm (at which point many of us adjourn to the Cottage Inn in Upper Bucklebury). The standard of play is varied but we would particularly welcome potential team players as we are looking to enter more teams next season. We play in the Newbury badminton league and currently have a team in the semi-final of the knock-out tournament, namely the Blackford Cup.

If you are interested you can just turn up or you can find more information on our website below.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesdays 8.00pm to 10.00pm, September to July

CONTACT: Margaret Neville 01635 873811

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Country Life

Surprise of the Sulphur Tuft

A year or so ago when two conifers at the Cemetery had to be taken down, I thought we had seen the last of them when the contractors finally took out the roots and removed them.

It never occurred to me that a magnificent array of toadstools would grace the area where the trees stood. The bulk of them were an array of yellow in the grass. They turned out to be sulphur tufts, toadstools quite easily recognised because they are yellow with greenish gills. They are usually seen on wood, but on this occasion I believe they were on the dead roots just below the surface. Like most toadstools they are neither edible nor poisonous, in other words not nice to eat, but you would probably survive if you were to eat one.

The other species close-by, was a very dark brown and white one which flourishes under the name of *Melanoleuca melaleuca*. I know of no English name. The books say it is edible but not one of the best, so it is probably best avoided for eating.

Together the two species added unexpected colour and interest to the Cemetery on an October day.

Roger Frankum

October 2012

West Berkshire Countryside Society

The group now combines the aims and objectives of the Pang and Kennet Valleys Countryside Projects, the Bucklebury Heathlands Conservation Group, and the Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers. It has been set up to represent all of the people who care about the countryside throughout West Berkshire. The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10.00am and finish by 4.00pm 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.

For further information please see the website -

www.westberks countryside.org.uk.

Saturday 9th Feb 10.00am. Bucklebury Common

Habitat management meet at Angel's Corner (SU 550 688).

Sunday 10th Mar 10.00am. Bucklebury Common

Habitat management meet at Angel's Corner (SU 550 688).

Walk: Bucklebury Village to Stanford Dingley

Leave the Victory Room Car Park and turn left up the road into the village – follow the road round the bends and over the bridge out of the speed limit, then take the road towards Stanford Dingley on your right. (This road is slightly uphill). *Stay on this road past Rushden's Farm and the footpath signs and continue until the next footpath crossing at Pangfield Farm.*

Here there is a choice of routes** – for the shorter one - Turn RIGHT, the lane is through a pedestrian side gate, and follow lane until you reach another gateway and stiles. Do not go through the gate but go over the stile on your right. ***

Keep to the left of the fence, which appears to be in the middle of the wide path, and follow the River Pang (on your left). Keep going, houses will be on your right at the far side of paddocks, and turn left over the Bridge over the River Pang (good for playing Pooh sticks!).

Head across the field to a gap in the hedge and over the stile, then across the second field to posts – do NOT cross the bridge but turn right towards The Old School seen in the distance. Turn right at the road and follow it around to the right and back towards the church and the car park. (Taking the path through the churchyard you can discover iron headstones forged in Bucklebury Foundry and the path will take you out opposite the car park).

** For the longer walk turn LEFT at Pangfield Farm, taking the pedestrian gate on the left of the main driveway. Follow the 'preferred pathway' through the farmyard and up a slight slope to turn right at the cross paths. Bear round to the right and then left, keep right at the Y junction and over the stile. Follow the footpath sign to go around the field and turn left onto the road and then first right up the bank, over a stile into field. Go over another stile, cross the path and over yet another stile – beware of the electric fence and follow the footpath direction to middle of the field and towards the church spire (St Denys, Stanford Dingley), over stile and diagonally across to gate in front of the church – *when we walked this last piece we had to take the electric fence post out of the ground to step over the wire* – go over the stile and turn right onto the road.

Then take the next footpath on the right, almost immediately and next to Kent's Bungalow, and opposite a yard. Cross the field to a gate and through the wood and on to another gate and over the field. Follow the path round to the right through a gateway (Recreational Route) to the next gate and turn left once through the gate. (If gate is closed you have to climb two stiles!). Here the path joins from the shorter route – follow as *** above.

Helen Relf, 01635 867619 helenrelf@relfsociety.org

Bucklebury Heathland

The Common in the spring was dry, but June gave us 6ins of rain and it never stopped. The year was rounded by 5ins in December, a grand total of 37ins for the year which is 10ins above normal. The constant rain gave us vigorous growth of heather, but also silver birch.

The bird population is building up: we had four or five pairs of night-jars, and an expanding population of wood larks. Tree pipits returned, but I am not sure of the number.

We now have a herpetologist surveying the Lower Common. An adder and lizards were found last year, but we are looking for help with the survey - ANY TAKERS?

There have been two groups helping during the year: a small group doing the Duke of Edinburgh award from Downe House worked hard on a wet day clearing small Scots Pine; and our usual group of 23 students on an M.Sc. course from Reading University did some great clearing up and burning.

The volunteers have carried on clearing and treating areas of Silver Birch. It's a bit boring but, once it is cleared, the heather "jumps out at you" and makes it worth while.

Tim Culley

Contributions

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

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

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

Wynne Frankum

Parish Diary Dates

February

7th Bucklebury Walkers
9th West Berkshire Countryside Society
12th Tuesday Ladies' Club
22nd Horticultural Society
23rd Highland Ceilidh

March

2nd Tuesday Ladies' Club
7th Bucklebury Walkers
9th Bucklebury Events' Committee
10th West Berkshire Countryside Society
14th Bag2School
22nd Horticultural Society
23rd Commons Clearing

April

2nd St. Martin's Club
4th Bucklebury Walkers
8th Horticultural Society
9th Tuesday Ladies' Club
23rd MacMillan Cancer Support
27th Victory Room meeting
30th Bucklebury History Group

May

2nd Bucklebury Walkers
11th Horticultural Society
18th Horticultural Society

10.00am The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
10.00am Heathland Management, Angel's Corner.
7.45pm Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
8.00pm Memorial Hall.
7.30pm Victory Room, Bucklebury.
7.45pm Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
10.00am The Old Boot, Stanford Dingley.
7.30pm Quiz Night at Woody's, Bucklebury Farm Park.
10.00am Heathland Management, Angel's Corner.
Before 9.00am Bucklebury Primary School.
8.00pm Memorial Hall.
2.00pm Memorial Hall.
Mystery Coach Trip.
10.00am The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
8.00pm Spring Show, Memorial Hall.
7.45pm Cottage Inn.
Afternoon Tea & Antiques, The Victory Room.
7.30pm Open meeting to display and discuss options.
7.30pm The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village.
10.00am Bucklebury Farm Park (Car Park).
9.30am Trip to Malvern Show.
9.30am Trip to Savill Gardens, Windsor Great Park.

Bucklebury Parish Council

Saturday 23rd March 2013

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"

Published in January, April and September

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

Helen Pratt, Clerk,

Jasmine Cottage, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury,

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and on the web:

<http://buckleburyparish.org/publications/the-oaks>

Redevelopment of the Victory Room Questionnaire

Please complete by the end of February.

(If you would prefer to complete an online version please visit the parish website or type this URL into your browser
www.surveymonkey.com/s/TTVTHQ2)

Where do you live ? (please tick)

Upper Bucklebury
Chapel Row
The Slade
Bucklebury
Other [please specify]	

Have you used the Victory Room?

Y / N

If yes, what for?

If the Victory room was significantly improved, what would you like to use it for?

Sports events	Y / N
Children's parties	Y / N
Family/adult parties	Y / N
Church events eg wedding/funeral/christening parties	Y / N
Classes	Y / N
Organisation meetings e.g. scouts/cubs/brownies/guides	Y / N
Other meetings e.g. mother/toddler, committees	Y / N
Saturday market for local produce	Y / N

What improvements would you like to see ?

A bigger main hall	Y / N
A committee Room	Y / N
A sports room for spectators and players	Y / N
Changing Rooms	Y / N
A superior kitchen	Y / N
Modern toilet facilities including disabled	Y / N
Secure storage	Y / N
A mobile stage	Y / N
A bar	Y / N
A safe off road entrance with easy access for the disabled	Y / N
Outside covered veranda	Y / N

Additional comments please (continue overleaf if necessary)

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Please place in collection box in the Bladebone Pub or Peaches Store,
or send to John Clarke, The Old School House, Bucklebury Village RG76PN



