



# The Oaks Bucklebury in Lockdown

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## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

It has been a unique experience for all of us to live through the past months. Lockdown treated people differently. For those that remained fit, well and furlough-free it was a chance to familiarise themselves with Zoom or Teams and learn just how good their internet connection really was. It gave an opportunity to catch up on long due DIY and household jobs. The daily exercise permitted in lockdown enabled many to discover even more about Bucklebury and appreciate the beautiful surroundings in which we are fortunate enough to live. Most importantly lockdown brought our community even closer together. When, in mid-March, the PC called for volunteers to be ready to help the vulnerable and those shielding and self-isolating we rapidly formed a team of over 80 volunteers spread across the Parish. When asked they willingly went out to help those in need with their shopping and collection of medicines and in so doing also befriended many of them. We learned there were a few in the Parish, perhaps because they were too proud or 'didn't want to make a fuss', who were already in need of support notwithstanding the onset of the pandemic. When Covid-19 has finally receded, we will continue to keep an eye on these folk and help them when needed.

On behalf of the PC may I wholeheartedly thank all the volunteers who stepped forward to help fellow parishioners. With the easing of the lockdown restrictions there has been a significantly reduced demand for assistance by volunteers. However, we ask our volunteer team to standby rather than stand down just in case the coronavirus situation deteriorates and they are wanted again.

The work of the PC has continued uninterrupted in recent months. We cancelled this year's Parish Assembly and continue to hold our meetings virtually. This should not inhibit any member of the public participating. Please contact the Clerk if you want to take part.

This edition of The Oaks is a departure from the norm as with lockdown we knew the societies, clubs and organisations who usually report their happenings would have had precious little to say. So, on this occasion The Oaks has a diverse range of articles showcasing the talents and interests of our community. We hope you are pleased with the content.

**Barry Dickens,  
Chair of Bucklebury Parish Council.**

## Covid-19 in Bucklebury

### Education for Bucklebury's young people

Two young people from Bucklebury were asked to write about their experiences of school during the COVID-19 lockdown. Thank you to Erin and Theo for their contributions.

#### A Primary Perspective

I sat in my sister's piano lesson watching the news, it had just been announced that school would be put on hold until further notice because of the COVID-19 outbreak. I was looking forward to my birthday sleep-over on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. I went to school on the 20<sup>th</sup>, my mum took a photo outside my house because my dad thought there was a possibility that it could be my last day of primary school. My sleep-over, that was supposed to be happening that weekend, was cancelled. Total lockdown, no socialising and most of all home school!

The Headmaster, Mr Higgs kept us entertained with Baby Buck, a cheeky teddy bear who made appearances on the Monday 'Roll Call', 'Welcome Wednesday' and 'Funday Friday' with Higgs' Highlights. Our family all watched the highlights on Friday lunchtimes, which was on Facebook.

Our work was located on our school's website. Distance prep sheets were set by our teacher. We had Maths and English for the morning and a different task, e.g. art, inquiry, geography, PSHE, history and transition work. Occasionally we also had PE objectives. Our work was set by our teachers and we had at least around two and a half hours of work set for us in total (not including breaks).

I am in Y6 so the 20<sup>th</sup> of March was not my last day of primary school. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, Y6 was given the choice to return to school and I went back. At the start, only six people came back but by the end of term there were about 12 of us and we got to have Y6 picnic with a photographer taking pictures of us in our Y6 Leavers Hoodies.

**Erin Cartwright**

#### A Secondary Perspective

Hi, I'm Theo Powell and I go to Kennet School in Thatcham. I have just finished Year 12, the first year of sixth form leading to 'A' Levels in June 2021, so I am going to write about my own personal experience, as I realise that things were handled differently for each year group at my school.

At first I thought that staying home from school during lockdown would place me far behind where I should have been in a normal year, especially as we are preparing for our exams next summer. However, throughout the whole lockdown period, lessons on the whole from Kennet School kept to our normal timetables for Year 12, with a combination of lessons on Zoom and work set for individual study and this has helped keep the momentum going. I've found learning from home a surprisingly pleasant experience, enabling me to work at a pace and at times that suit me. Where Year 12 work would have been of a more practical nature; music compositions, performances in Drama for example, the more theory based content of Year 13 has been brought forward, with the idea of us picking up on the practical work of Year 12 in the autumn. However, despite the fact that much of the content has been covered in my subjects, there has been a lack of consolidation in some. As a result of this, I do feel a mixture of apprehension and uncertainty about what the autumn term will bring and how this will impact on my 'A' Level exams in June 2021.

Throughout lockdown, our tutors kept in touch with us and we had the opportunity of a meeting with them in person at the beginning of July. This was very beneficial, as it gave us an opportunity to clear up any concerns. We also had a morning or afternoon when we could go and talk to the sixth form leadership team about our options for after school. This was essential and useful as this would have normally been something we would have spent a lot of time talking about with our tutors, in preparation for next year. I have felt that in particular, the Head of Sixth Form has been available for any concerns, replying immediately to any issues raised and keeping a feeling of positivity including a motivational video which he recorded to keep us going during moments when it was hard to focus or where motivation was waning.

In July some signs of normality returned a little as we were able to go into the school in smaller groups for exams and then one or two lessons in each subject. This was a good thing to have before the long summer break and it was a very positive experience being able to catch up with our peers and teachers.

## Birth During Lockdown

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 03:14 we gave birth to a gorgeous healthy (and very loud!) 7lb 13oz baby boy...

We were never expecting to bring a new life into the world during a global pandemic, entering lockdown and after testing positive for Covid-19 but there was not much we could do about it!

The challenging situation for us was not being allowed to have Dad at the birth to welcome our son into the world. Thank goodness for modern technology so virtually we could all be together at this important milestone moment.

Not being able to introduce our son to anyone in person for months on end during lockdown was also very hard for all of us (especially the lack of new baby cuddles) but has made us appreciate even more the importance of family, friends and community.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped and supported us during these challenging times including fantastic family, friends, neighbours, Royal Berkshire/Community midwives and NHS workers – whether it was supporting us during and after the birth, keeping in touch virtually, coming to visit us and our new arrival through the window and popping out to collect us any essentials, thank you!

The most important thing throughout all of this is that as a family we are all safe and well and we have an amazing new addition, what more could we ask for.

### The Fieldings

## Moths

For many years I have taken an interest in butterflies, but have not bothered much with moths. So when Lockdown came I thought that would be an opportunity to look at moths.

Everybody knows that moths are attracted to a light although nobody really understands why. They are even more attracted to mercury vapour lamps and that is used in moth traps. We bought a simple moth trap which was really a big box with a mercury vapour lamp above it which plugs into the mains. We put this outside the garage in the evening with three egg boxes for the moths to hide under, and then look at it in the morning. Many species are brown

or grey and may be hard to identify, but some are more dramatic. The Poplar Hawk Moth does not look like a moth at all when it is settled but when it flies it suddenly shows its bright pink abdomen. Then the Buff-tip looks just like a broken birch twig. I would never know it was an insect at all if I saw it on the ground. But when it flies it reveals the yellowish wing tips which give it its name.

Often moths are quite dopey in the daytime and this makes them easier to look at, but sometimes they unexpectedly decide to fly off and that is why we find odd moths in different parts of the house.

We had one unwelcome moth which I could not easily identify as it was not in any of the books. It was white with a dark brown surround to its wings.

A friend helped me identify it and it was a Box Tree Moth, which is a recent addition to our fauna from South East Asia and not



Box tree moth

welcome because the caterpillar eats the leaves of box. We decided to kill our specimens in an effort to preserve our box bushes.

If that is not enough of a challenge then there are the micromoths which are generally smaller and usually more difficult to identify. They indeed merit a whole extra book and sometimes need a lens to see their markings clearly.

I would never have known that there were so many different species of moth in the district if I had not started trapping them. So far I have identified 113 species, assuming that I got them all right! This includes 31 micromoths. Another surprise was that we caught some fairly large beetles called Cockchafers, which some people call May-bugs. They are reputed to have declined in number recently so that is good news.

Altogether the moths have made the Lockdown much more interesting; indeed I cannot imagine a Lockdown without them!

**Roger Frankum**

## COVID Experiences

I have recently been lucky enough to chat to Neville & Jean Morris about their experiences of having the Covid19 virus.

It all began on March 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> when Jean felt slightly unwell with a temperature but this didn't last long. She still doesn't know if she actually had the virus because at the moment she has been unable to have an antibody test.

Then on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Neville felt unwell. He called 111 on the 25<sup>th</sup> March when he was told to rest and take paracetamol. He was worse on Thursday night and on Friday morning called his GP who called an ambulance and he was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He was told that he was very dehydrated but medically fit to go home at 2.15 pm. He was not checked again and he was brought home by two ladies in hospital transport at 5.15 pm. He was unable to get into the house on his own so used a wheelchair. Once inside he was helped to bed and the ladies left. However he was unable to sit up in bed and had no control over his body at all so, as the two ladies were still on the drive sanitising their vehicle, Jean went out and asked for their help, which they gave. They then said that they couldn't take him back to hospital but as soon as they had left Jean should call 999 for an ambulance.

Neville's temperature was then over 40°C and by 8.15 pm he was heading back to the RBH. The next day (Saturday) Neville was tested positive for the virus he was put on oxygen and Jean was called by the doctor to tell her this and to say that there would be no resuscitation and he would not be moved from the ward. On Sunday he was stable, he had a full oxygen mask on and Jean was told that the next 24 – 48 hours were crucial.

Can you imagine what the family lived through over the next couple of days? Jean not allowed to have anyone with her, not able to speak to the hospital and just waiting for a phone call. By Tuesday Neville was a little better and by Thursday he was only on oxygen at night. The doctor rang Jean each day.

Neville was allowed a shower on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April and came home on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. He was discharged at 2.30 pm but not home until 9.30 pm in the evening, complete with walking frame. The first thing he needed was a cup of tea and custard cream biscuits!

Neville told me that at one point he felt like an astronaut as

he was surrounded by so many leads, tubes, nurses and doctors in full PPE and his oxygen completely covered his face. By the Thursday he was so desperate for a drink of water that he tried to get the mask off. As he put it – 'It was 8 days of hell'. And this was echoed by Jean.

Luckily Neville has made a full recovery and is now back working in the garden. He and Jean are full of praise for the NHS staff at the RBH – they all work so hard for all the patients.

A message from them both is that Covid19 is not over – please take care, follow instructions about social distancing and wearing a mask and **STAY SAFE**. They would not want anyone to go through their experiences.

**Helen Relf.**

## Yoga Kept Me Sane

Like most yoga and fitness teachers, once lockdown arrived I quickly decided to embrace Zoom and teach online. I admit I was a bit nervous about the logistics but I love teaching, my students have become friends and my yoga practice is a huge part of my life so I wanted to make it work. I'm glad I made the leap.

The technology itself worked exceptionally well. Finding peace and quiet proved more difficult. Two small boys being homeschooled encouraged me to rent the Committee Room at Upper Bucklebury Memorial Hall to teach some classes. Great wifi, silence and the excuse to get out of the house. Win win win.

The massage and reflexology side of my business - and my main workload - ceased entirely. Months of appointments in London for corporate clients, at yoga retreats around the UK, locally for mobile treatments and at my Essex practice were cancelled. I had also been looking forward to working at West Berkshire Brewery teaching some fun beer yoga as well as regular classes there.

I've certainly missed interactions with my clients and students and the meditative aspect of my work. My body has enjoyed the rest though and my long drives have been

replaced by plenty of long walks and cycles in the woods. Bliss!

I've also used the new-found spare time to take up work as bank staff at 30 Broad Lane, a wonderful residential care home. It's been a totally new and enriching experience. The staff there are incredible and I have learnt so much. I can't think of a better way to have made the most of lockdown and will continue my role there beyond Covid.

Overall, I feel very lucky to have been in lockdown here in Upper Bucklebury, surrounded by nesting blue tits, tawny owls and woodpeckers and spending more time with my loved ones. Having time to watch the newts float around in our pond and take better care of our garden made the days pass very quickly.

Our neighbours on Berrys Road have been fabulous company and have all looked out for each other. It's truly heartwarming to see and hear of all the kindness and support extended by people in the village, from picking up shopping and making food bank contributions, to organising book & jigsaw swaps. I'm not sure I'll rush into another 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle for a while.

Thankfully my massage work has picked up again and new opportunities have arrived and given me hope that post-lockdown will be exciting and interesting.

Either way, yoga will continue to keep me flexible in mind and body and stay connected to this local community. If you're interested in the benefits of yoga and would like to find out more about classes or mobile massage & reflexology, please email me.

**Janine Ford**

[jfordtherapies@gmail.com](mailto:jfordtherapies@gmail.com)

#### **Pens, CDs and magazines needed!**

If you've had a clear out and want to get rid of old stationery, CDs and magazines, the staff and residents at 30 Broad Lane would always welcome contributions. Please feel free to drop them off at 30 Broad Lane or contact me.

**Janine Ford**

[jfordtherapies@gmail.com](mailto:jfordtherapies@gmail.com)

## **Bucklebury Rocks**

Lockdown has been a tough time for lots of people. The coronavirus outbreak caused many of us to have to shield ourselves at home. We couldn't go to cafes or parks, gymnasiums or cinemas, but we could go on walks. We could explore the nature, we could hear the buzzing of bees, we could smell the fresh air and the sweet daisies, we could see the wonders of life.

Most days, my family and I went on walks around parts of Bucklebury. There were parts that we hadn't seen properly before; we found lots of places in Bucklebury that we didn't know about, like a swing surrounded by bluebells. On some of the days when we went on walks, we saw stones and rocks hidden all throughout the forest - people had painted and drawn on these rocks. Some had beautiful swirling patterns, while others were creatures with beady eyes, there were also a few with words like 'love' or 'hope', which were important words of life.

After seeing some of the painted rocks, we decided to do our own; I painted a ladybug, a doughnut and one with a metallic wavy pattern. My sister and mum painted hearts and rainbow patterns, and my dad created his own crazy blue cartoon character which he painted on a stone. It was a way of expressing ourselves, there were lots of different things we could paint. Going on a walk and spotting a creatively decorated painted rock, brought joy to lockdown. It became such a popular and nice thing to do, that it soon got named 'Bucklebury Rocks'.

**Lizzie Auld, aged 11**



Examples of Bucklebury Rocks

## Lockdown Gardening

Like many parishioners that I have talked to one of the upsides of our spring and summer of lockdown was spending time in the garden that we would not normally have the time to do.

For me, as a relative novice, I took this time to learn more about gardening with a view to making my garden more productive and colourful for a longer period of time and throughout the summer. My plans were made all the more difficult with all the garden centres locally being closed from mid-March, normally a busy time for me to visit.

So online I went, and for the first year I have managed to grow everything from seeds, as normally for vegetables and annuals I veer on the lazy side and go for seedlings. There are so many suppliers out there but a couple to note are Sarah Raven who never let me down and Specialplants.com that have more unusual specimens and choices

One of the areas I wanted to improve was staggering my planting over a number of weeks rather than having a mad rush during March and April thus keeping colour long into the early autumn

The following flowers are recommended by RHS's chief horticulturalist Guy Barter. All the seeds listed are large, and easy to handle for people of all ages and abilities. Also, it's possible to see their full life cycle (going from seed to seed) in one season and more important for me can be planted later in the summer.

I have chosen these flowers to share with you especially because one can sow later in the spring or early summer thus prolonging your colourful garden.

**Nasturtium.** These have large seeds and grow in a variety of vibrant colours. They can be sown until late June and will soon provide lots of colour right through to frost.



**Love-in-the-mist.** These are also known as nigella and are associated with cottage gardens. . These can be sown until early July and, if you want to see them again next year, sow them once more in September. Love-in-the-mist has beautiful light blue flowers and as soon as the petals have finished you will be left with strange 'alien-like' seed pods. Let them dry on the plant and then collect the whole weird seed head.

**Pot marigold.** These are another cottage garden flower and have distinctive yellow and orange heads. As with love-in-the-mist, it's best to sow these until early July and repeat in September if you want them back next year.

**Sunflower.** How tall can you grow a sunflower? Not only do they have amazing heads which cheer up any garden, they can reach impressive heights too. If they're up for it, challenge the rest of the family to a competition to see who can grow the biggest one. They can be sown in June and should flower in August.

**Poached egg.** It's easy to see how this got its name, although it's perhaps more like a fried egg with its yellow centre and white petals. Not only is it colourful, it also attracts insects, such as hoverflies, if you want to spot even more nature.

### Put them in pots !!

The following seeds can all be planted at any time from April through to end of June, but also in pots rather than straight into the soil. They prefer warmer temperatures, so keep the pots indoors and when the outdoor temperature rises move them into the soil outside and they should flower in summer.

**Zinnia.** Zinnia seeds produce some vividly coloured heads. They can be sown until mid-June.



**Cosmos.** These look a little like the flowers in the Mr Men books, with very colourful petals around a yellow centre. Like the zinnia, they originated in Mexico and South America so fare best in long, dry summers. These can be

sown until mid-June.

**Brugmansia** or Angels trumpet are fabulous and easy to grow. We are currently having a family competition with these beauties to see how many individual flowers appear over the summer. Huge hanging trumpet flowers appear only 5 weeks after the seed germinates and once the flower wilts will soon be followed by a huge conker shaped seed head with over 40 more seeds. Again seeds can be planted mid-June for a fine summer display. Perfect.

What have I done differently in the veggie patch during lockdown? Well I tried growing Trombocino also known as zuchetta and is a summer squash which is easy to grow from seed. You need a bit of space for these as the produce of the plant may need a height of six foot as the individual squash will hang down with lengths of over two feet! They are very prolific in well mulched soil. The recipes are endless but currently we are in a ratatouille phase.

Happy colourful gardening everyone!

**Robin Ranken.**

## The Cottage Inn

Gary did sterling service at the Cottage Inn providing very welcome take away meals three nights a week. They were very much appreciated by parishioners wanting a night off cooking. Gary's organisation was as usual superb and there was a constant flow of smiley faces.



Collecting a takeaway from The Cottage Inn

In June we sang Happy Birthday to our wonderful landlord of The Cottage Inn, Gary. We also thanked him for carrying on throughout lockdown with takeaway.

We are so lucky to have him and his family here in Bucklebury.

## Berry's Road in Lockdown

In Berry's Road (including Blacklands Road and Woodside Close) we have organised weekly, socially-distanced, coffee mornings every Sunday at 11am, since the beginning of lockdown for those who would like to join in. This has then expanded into frequent BBQs on residents' front driveways, sing-along sessions with local musicians and big celebrations with bunting, music, dancing and food for Easter, VE Day, Father's Day/Summer Solstice and other occasions just because the weather is good!



VE Day decorations in Berry's Road.

Any excuse is a good one! We have even been spotted doing the Hokey Cokey in a socially distanced form from pavement to pavement across the road!

Neighbours also gather around to sing a version of Happy Birthday around the front drives of those who have birthdays through this period of lockdown.

Gardens have been a way of coping with the lockdown for many people. In July several folks opened their gardens for others to enjoy. These varied from those which receive lots of TLC to the contrasting 'wildlife' ones! In the usual tradition, tea and cake were served.

There has also been a weekly book and puzzle swap when fine, which has kept us well supplied with new books. This might have to move from the shade of the tree to the garage post summer weather.

Apart from being a lot of fun and helping the community in the road, this along with the NHS Clap on a Thursday, has boosted morale on many an occasion over the past months and introduced us to people we hadn't met before.

**Katie Powell & Wynne Frankum**

## Peaches Stores

When Lockdown struck and the big supermarkets shelves were emptying, Hash and Chan pulled out all the stops and kept Bucklebury residents well supplied. This meant Hash getting up even earlier than usual to go to the Cash and Carry every morning to restock. At the time when loo rolls and flour were in short supply, Hash often managed to source them. He also delivered to people who were isolating and increased the paper delivery round. Hard to get items like compost appeared along with a good range of plants for the garden. A wonderful help when the garden centres were closed.

In early summer, when the Chieveley Bakery, which had supplied bread and baked goods for years, unexpectedly ceased to operate, Hash found another bakery within a couple of days much to his customers surprise and relief.

To be able to rely on Peaches Stores throughout Lockdown when so many people were unable to go to the supermarkets and delivery slots were like hens' teeth was a huge relief.

Bucklebury is indebted to Hash and Chan and they deserve the letter of appreciation from the High Sheriff of Berkshire, acknowledging the huge contribution they have made to the lives of the people in our parish.



## Parish Council Matters Arising

### Bucklebury Cemetery



In the Cemetery, a number of things have been identified as requiring attention of some sort. Some of these are unskilled tasks, whilst others require the skills of craftsmen/women and engineers.

There is going to be a Cemetery working party on Sunday 27th September at 10.00am. If you are interested in coming along and helping, please contact Helen, the Parish Clerk (01635 863581 or [clerk@buckleburyparish.org](mailto:clerk@buckleburyparish.org)).

Cemetery Carols will potentially take place on Monday 21st December at 6pm, but a decision on whether to hold this annual gathering will be taken closer to the time.

### Common Clearing

Many of you will be familiar with the biannual Common Clearing and litter picking event which has taken place every spring and autumn for at least the last 25 years and I suspect significantly longer.

Parishioners (and friends) meet at the Memorial Hall about 2pm, collect litter pickers and rubbish sacks and venture across the parish in search of rubbish and litter—it's amazing what has been found over the years. Filled rubbish sacks and larger pieces of rubbish are collected by other volunteers with vehicles and deposited in skips which are provided by BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust) who manage the Common.

Between 3.30pm and 4pm, people return to the Memorial Hall. In normal circumstances, refreshments are then enjoyed by all.

Due to COVID-19, the Spring 2020 Common Clearing and Litter Picking event was cancelled. Hopefully, we will be able to hold the Autumn Common Clearing and Litter Picking event on **Saturday 10th October**, although sadly we will not be serving refreshments after.. It is planned to start the afternoon as usual at 2pm at the Memorial Hall. All parishioners are welcome; there will be litter picking kits for children and young people as well as adults.

**Helen Pratt - Clerk to Bucklebury Parish Council.**



## Speed Prevention

Bucklebury Parish Council has become increasingly aware that speeding is seen as a growing problem by many parishioners and created the Bucklebury Speed Prevention Group as a response. The Group's actions are currently limited to educating those that drive through the parish by the use of posters and borrowing and installing a SID (Speed Indicator Device) from WBC. This only records speed and time information when it is deployed and the data once downloaded is used to inform WBC of the level of speeding. We are only able to use SID where there is a 30 or 40 mph limit in place.



In November 2019 we deployed one of the WBC SIDs for a week. It was deployed 15 times for a total of 20 hours in 7 locations. The data showed WBC that the Parish had a significant speeding issue in Chapel Row and Burdens Heath. Speeds in excess of 60 mph were recorded in the 30 mph zone in Burdens Heath which very much confirms the concerns of those who live in this area.

Walking children to school along our roads in the face of such traffic must be a very unpleasant experience as a consequence of the behaviour of some drivers. If you do sometimes push the speed limits in our Parish please think about the impact you are having on other residents and their children.

In January we asked WBC to correct the speed limit signs in Bucklebury village that had been twisted round 180°.

BPC sponsored a road safety poster competition with Bucklebury Primary School from which 5 brilliant designs were each twice printed and posted around the parish in March. One of the posters in Chapel Row disappeared in days but the remaining 9 remained in place until we removed them in July. These will return after a short break as part of our driver educational response.



Our planned March deployment of SID was put on hold due to the COVID lockdown.

After growing concerns that the new road surface in Chapel

Row had created a 'race track' BPC raised the issue with WBC. With support from our District Councillor Graham Pask WBC have initiated an additional SID/Monitoring campaign in Chapel Row that started in July and will continue over a number of months. Thames Valley Police have also now reinstated their enforcement vans and one has been seen in Chapel Row in recent weeks. TVP are informed of hot spots by WBC so I guess you can expect to see the van again as a consequence of the data being recorded and other sites may be added by TVP if the data supports the need.



In July we were able to borrow SID again and this time it was deployed 46 times for a total of 131 hours in 11 locations over a two week period. The data has not yet come back from WBC but sadly a limited sample again would suggest we have a number of drivers who are not respecting the speed limit by some margin. The additional sites were in response to concerns from Parishioners, a number of whom helped provide locations and monitor the sign once installed: thank you for your help.

The frequency of SID usage is resource limited as we currently only have 3 trained operators in the parish. We have asked WBC to provide us with a local SID training course in one of our open areas in the parish in the coming months. We would very much welcome additional volunteers to come and get trained so that we can borrow and deploy SID more often. Speeding in rural areas is a national issue so the more we show WBC the nature of our problem the more likely we are to receive additional support to address it. We can only hope that some of those driving in the parish will also slow down a bit as a consequence of the educational impact of this work.

If you want to help and are interested in joining the Bucklebury Speed Prevention Group or being trained to operate SID please contact our Parish Clerk Helen Pratt or David Southgate.

**David Southgate - Bucklebury Parish Council**

## Planning

The list of planning applications is long, but these are all the applications the PC has considered since January 2020. Large changes to the national planning process are currently being consulted upon. It is unlikely these will bring significant change to Bucklebury, but only time will tell.

### Helen Pratt - Clerk to Bucklebury Parish Council

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
19/00832/REM	<u>Land Adjacent to Summerfield, The Ridge (Adjacent Parish)</u> Approval of reserved matters following Outline permission 16/02529/OUTD - Change of use of part of existing agricultural field to residential and the erection of 5 no. detached dwelling houses with ancillary garages, access, parking, landscaping and associated works. Matters seeking consent - Access, landscaping and scale.	Object	Refused
19/02108/COMIND	<u>Bucklebury Farm Park.</u> Retrospective application for 7 glamping units and associated development for perennial use.	No Objection	Approved
19/02300/MDOPO	<u>The Lodge, Donnington Close</u> Modification of the obligation of the third schedule of planning permission 147230 varied under 03/02480/RELAX.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/02517/HOUSE	<u>Riverbarn.</u> Retrospective in part - Distributary channel with foot bridge; Two storey extension replacing single storey extension; Restoration of Mill Barn; Oak framestore; Partial demolition of outbuilding.	No Objection	Approved
19/02942/HOUSE	<u>42 Mortons Lane.</u> Upper storey extension to form new bedroom and conversion of existing garage into new family room.	Object	Approved
19/03051/HOUSE	<u>Shady Oak, Little Lane.</u> Replacement of flat roof over single storey bedroom with pitched, hipped roof.	No Objection	Approved
19/03158/MINMAJ	<u>Harts Hill Copse, Burdens Heath.</u> Section 73: Variation of condition 1-temporary permission 3-approved plans and 28-final levels of approved application 17/03493/MINMAJ: Section 73. Variation of condition 1 (time period of operations) of the appeal decision APP/U0300/A/88/93423 for Extraction of hoggin from Land adjoining Harts Hill Road, to enable a satisfactory restoration scheme to be agreed, implemented and completed.	No Objection	Approved
19/03182/FUL	<u>Bucklebury Chase (Little Roselands), The Avenue.</u> Section 73: Variation/Removal of Condition (2) Approved Drawings of previously approved application (17/02266/FUL): Demolition of the existing dwelling, annexe, garage and outbuildings and the erection of a replacement 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and access arrangements.	Object	Approved
20/00018/HOUSE	<u>Oak Lodge, Upper Woolhampton.</u> New first floor to existing bungalow, single storey rear extension and new detached garage.	Object	Refused
20/00058/HOUSE	<u>Corner Croft, Little Lane</u> Replacement of existing wooden and wire fencing and posts with a 1.8m closed board wooden fence and posts adjacent to Little Lane, Upper Bucklebury.	Object	Approved

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
19/03101/CERTE	<u>Foxhold</u> Extension of curtilage to include boundary of whole property.	No Comments	Refused
20/00264/HOUSE	<u>Ramblers, Little Lane.</u> Retrospective approval of electric gates. Removal of unlawful fence and set back 1.5m from plant mixed native hedge.	No Objection	Approved
20/00181/AGRIC	<u>Broadview Farm, The Ridge</u> Application for prior notification for a storage barn.	Object	Application not required
20/00170/FUL	<u>Bucklebury Village Hall, Bucklebury (The Victory Room).</u> Demolition/removal of existing toilets and storage area. Construction of a new extension to accommodate a new hall. the existing hall will be converted to accommodate a small hall/meeting room, storage, ladies, gents and disabled toilets and a new kitchen.	Support	Approved
20/00261/FUL	<u>Middlewood, Hatch Lane.</u> Section 73a: Variation/Removal of Condition 1 - Temporary Consent of previously approved application 16/03176/FUL: Change of use of land to residential for the positioning of a temporary mobile home as a forestry worker's dwelling (application for 3 years).	No Objection	Approved
20/00407/HOUSE	<u>18 Berrys Road.</u> Single storey extension to create extended sitting area, study and utility room.	No Objection	Approved
20/00485/LBC2	<u>Cob Hatch, Bucklebury Alley (Adjacent Parish).</u> Close up existing doorway in original wall between Cob Hatch and Westwood and close up existing doorway in between the same properties in C20th extension wall.	No Objection	Approved
20/00610/FUL	<u>Peaches Garage, Long Grove.</u> Conversion of ground floor of existing building to provide 4 no. residential units and associated development including parking, outdoor amenity space, landscaping and external alterations. Removal of existing canopy, signage and glazed shopfront.	No Objection	Approved
20/00603/HOUSE	<u>Orchard Gate, Little Lane.</u> Replacement pool building.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/00707/HOUSE	<u>Autumn Cottage, Briff Lane.</u> Rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
20/00852/HOUSE	<u>The Old Travellers Rest, Southend</u> Demolition of three unsafe timber outbuildings, construction of a replacement timber car port/garage, two single storey extension to the rear of the building, single storey extension to the side of the building and alterations including modifications and replacement of windows.	Object	Approved
20/00849/HOUSE	<u>Nine Elms Cottage, The Avenuen</u> Two storey extension.	No Objection	Withdrawn
20/01166/LBC2	<u>Hillhouse Farm, Hopgoods Green.</u> Works to replace window sills, window frames and glazing. Works to porch on south and north elevations and dormer on western elevation.	No Objection	Approved
20/01338/OUT	<u>Woodside, Long Grove.</u> Outline application to erect a single dwelling on the site with some matters reserved. Matters to be considered: Access.	Object	Refused

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
20/01380/HOUSE	<u>Oak Lodge, Upper Woolhampton.</u> New first floor to existing bungalow, two storey rear extension, alterations to existing single storey roofs and demolition of existing garage.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01480/FUL	<u>Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u> Rural diversification projection comprising demolition of existing out-building and polytunnels and erection of 1 no. B1/B2/B8 building with associated access track and parking area.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01506/HOUSE	<u>Chapel Row Farm.</u> Proposed single storey conservatory to the front of the former stable block.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01493/HOUSE & 20/01494/LBC2	<u>Cherry Orchard Cottage, Hatch Lane.</u> Single storey side extension.	Object	Awaiting decision
20/01572/HOUSE	<u>Bole Cottage, Chapel Row.</u> Single storey side extension and porch. First floor extension within new roof space with new dormer and Velux windows. Conversion of existing garage.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01629/FUL	<u>Ivinghoe (Adjacent Parish)</u> Replacement dwelling and landscape enhancements.	Object	Awaiting decision
20/01643/HOUSE	<u>2 Berry's Road.</u> Conversion of integral garage incorporating a front elevation change.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01660/HOUSE	<u>Wayside, Hatch Lane.</u> Proposed new build garage.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
20/01682/CERTE	<u>The Annexe at Hawkridge Farm.</u> The application is for the formation of a separate dwelling at Owl House following four years of continued use.	No Comment	Awaiting decision

## Bucklebury Meadows

There has always been the concern about the lack of easily accessible space for individuals and families within Upper Bucklebury itself, and this was brought into particularly sharp relief with the recent COVID lockdown. For some, exercise could be taken on the Common, but for others this was just not feasible. For some, fresh air meant stepping into their garden, but again for others this was not possible. To try and address this imbalance, an immediate objective for BPC is to provide a close-by, open space for those who might not be able to reach and enjoy the common, or those who have no other option for a socially-distanced meeting with friends, or those who need an open space for children to run around and play.

To achieve this, BPC are working now to improve the access to the smallest of the three meadows within Upper Bucklebury, and source seating. The small meadow's entranceway from Broad Lane will be opened and cleared of scrub, the gates altered to provide easier access for all, a small corner of the meadow cut to a lower level throughout

the summer, and seating installed. Through their initiatives to mitigate the community effects of the pandemic, West Berkshire Council may also provide some funding.

The Meadows have been maintained as 'unimproved hay meadows,' with a local farmer cutting the hay. Until recently the emphasis has been on maintenance, and the establishment of a stable relationship with the farmer to ensure the grass was cut. Moving forward, this position remains; whatever changes are made to improve the social amenity of the Meadows, the intent is to continue to improve their environmental role. This will include continuing to in-fill gaps in the boundary hedges, but also to lay those hedges that are suitable, and introduce more trees.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the Hockett field. If you are not aware of it, the Hockett is located to the east of the Upper Bucklebury - Chapel Row road, and is situated off the track that goes from the concrete pad just to the east of the Memorial Hall in Upper Bucklebury and links with Carbinswood Lane. The Hockett is nominally a sports field, but its isolation and lack of any facilities make that use implausible. Rather than condemn it to being a rarely visited

'field', part of the offsetting for the Meadows is to work to improve its amenity, attractiveness and environmental value. A local ecologist has been engaged to investigate how the Hockett may be improved in each of these areas. A number of ideas are being considered to make it a destination in its own right that our community will benefit from, and will want to visit, whilst improving its positive environmental effect.

If you have any comments on the above concepts, any ideas, or are willing to offer time or expertise then please contact the Clerk to BPC in the first instance. Please make your opinions known.

**Tim Slatford - Bucklebury Parish Council**

## **The Fred Dawson Playpark and the Bike Track**

One of the good things to come out of lockdown was that the playpark was closed which allowed us time to fix a few of the little issues that were needing to be done but were not dangerous. These had not been urgent enough for us to



Cllr. Cairns painting the igloo.

close the park when the weather was good enough for maintenance, and also good enough for families to want to use it. The Parish Councillors involved rubbed down and painted the blue igloo climbing frame, removed rust and painted moving parts on other equipment, replaced covers missing from screws, removed graffiti, re-sited the bin next to the table and painted the inside of the bike shelter.

When we re-opened, following Government guidelines and our own risk assessment, we had such a lot of support from local families. The park was very well used as many parks were still closed, and litter became an enormous problem with litter piled on top of bins and beside, as well as left around the park. The decision first of all to cover, then remove the bins was a very difficult one, but again, support from local families has been wonderful and the playpark is being kept beautifully clean with parents taking their own rubbish home. Please remind your teenagers to take their bottles home and not throw them down the slope in the evenings. I'm really getting too old for that slope! The reminder not to eat and drink in the playpark has been well supported too. It is so important for the safety of all parishioners that the virus is not spread within the parish, and therefore not touching food or bottle tops after touching equipment is vital.

The bike track has been open throughout and has been very well used indeed. As a result the track needs to be closed for three days for resurfacing work to be carried out. This will be Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September for the work and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September as the surface must be given time to settle before being used.

During the summer, some unofficial tracks cutting across the main track have been made. Please talk to your children about these and explain that they are considered dangerous by RoSPA (people can end up going in the opposite direction to other riders) and we have arranged for them to be removed when the time is right in the autumn. We are not trying to spoil people's fun, but if they are there when we have our next RoSPA inspection we could fail it and have to close the track.

Thank you to all families who use the facilities carefully and thoughtfully.

**Anne Hillerton - Bucklebury Parish Council**

### **Upper Bucklebury Dog Owners**

**There is a new dog bin just inside the entrance to the Memorial Hall carpark.**

## Recycling

### DO YOU RECYCLE ...?

Your response to recycling plastic bottle tops in these difficult times has been amazing. The figures below speak for themselves, but just to bring a smile to your faces, when all of the clean plastic bottle tops are stacked on top of each other they reach 133m tall which is nearly as high as the London Eye (135m)\*!

Since starting in January we have sent to recycling a total of 26.61Kgs. Let us hope we can crack 50Kgs by the end of the year! The recycling company R.P.C.S. Ltd in Cold Ash has continued to work throughout the lockdown and has been supplying some companies with plastic for P.P.E. for the N.H.S. – so feel good, maybe your milk bottle top has helped indirectly in the fight against the corona virus!

Obviously right now the best dropping off points are into the black bins outside: THE MEMORIAL HALL (main entrance) and THE VICTORY ROOM, also a mini bin container in the TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY at Chapel Row. Hopefully when Bucklebury Primary School opens we will again have a stalwart group that bring in clean plastic bottle tops, for the permanently overflowing mini bin (thank you Mrs. Kerry Gaumont who makes sure it is not too overflowing!).



When the halls are allowed to open then hopefully the mini bins in the kitchens can also be used.

Please wash before drop off to any of the above locations.

Thanks.

**RECYCLING - THINK GLOBAL – ACT LOCAL**  
**Hilary Cairns - Bucklebury Parish Council**

\*taking the average weight of a bottle top as 2 grammes, the diameter 4cms, and height 1cm.

## West Berks District Councillor

### WBC Councillors Report

When I wrote the last report for The Oaks last February very few of us could have imagined how our lives would change in such a short time! We are very lucky to live in a village with so many people looking out for their neighbours and to live in a beautiful area that is far safer than more urban areas, but some families have been impacted by Covid19 and they remain in our thoughts. I really want to reflect how our community has responded by a small army of volunteers who have been shopping for those who are unable to go themselves and assist with collecting prescriptions and generally looking out for others, thank you!

At District Council level a lot of work has been going on “behind the scenes”, we established a Community Hub to distribute food parcels and coordinate voluntary groups. We have tried to ensure that Council business continued with minimal disruption, for example our waste collection teams have worked tirelessly to collect both household waste (the grey bins) and our recycling which relatively few authorities have managed to do throughout the lockdown. It was inconvenient to have our HWRCs (the ‘tip’) closed due to government guidelines but now the system of booking a time is working well in my opinion, as a regular user.

We have taken the opportunity to accelerate our road resurfacing program whilst traffic volumes were lower than normal including through Chapel Row as well as the A4 junction with Hambridge Lane, a great improvement. As soon as we had a new road surface there were complaints about the speed of traffic exacerbated by low volumes, I believe, so I arranged for enhanced monitoring of speed. This will continue for a number of months as the results were even worse than expected, sadly, with additional police enforcement too. I would also like to thank members of the Parish Council for their deployment of SID (speed indication device) earlier in the month, we don’t have all the results yet but every speeding vehicle is recorded.

Finally, we held a meeting very recently (suitably distanced of course) to plan how we are going to protect our byways over the winter months from illegal 4x4 use, I won’t go into too much detail as I wrote a full report on what we were doing last year in the February edition of The Oaks

(available on the Parish Council website if you have lost your copy) but this year we are putting the Traffic Regulation Orders in place from the beginning of October and intend to install foldable bollards in place of the metal fencing wherever possible to ensure our byways are protected in the wet season. I would reiterate that if you are aware of any illegal 4x4 activity on the common (for example on bridleways which should not be used by vehicles or on the common itself which includes motorcycles) please phone the police who will, subject to their availability, take action.

As always please contact me if you have any issues relating to the Council. I hope everyone remains safe and healthy in the coming months.

**Graham Pask - District Councillor**

Bucklebury Ward contains the parishes of Bucklebury, Midgham, Stanford Dingley and Woolhampton. Our District Councillor is:

Graham Pask Tel: 01635 864023

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

## Patient Participation Update

### Health and Wellbeing Conference

Next month's Health and Wellbeing Conference for West Berkshire is taking place online and virtually via Zoom, on Friday 11 September.

It's free and open to everyone and is aimed at sharing insights and promoting discussion about how we can learn from the COVID crisis and use what we've learnt to strengthen our communities, improve wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

The event runs from 12.30 to 3pm and speakers will include Kamal Bahia, Head of the Health and Wellbeing Board Engagement Group; Garry Poulson, Director of the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire; Matt Pearce, Head of Public Health and Wellbeing, West Berkshire Council and Nick Carter, Chief Executive West Berkshire Council.

There will be question and answer sessions and breakout

events. If you'd like to take part you can sign up at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-wellbeing-conference-tickets-114084830800) (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/health-and-wellbeing-conference-tickets-114084830800>). You will receive a conference link and password a few days before the event giving details on how to access the Conference. If you would like to participate in a Breakout Session, you can secure your ticket via the same Eventbrite page.

If you'd like to submit questions before the event please contact: [kamalbahia@nhs.net](mailto:kamalbahia@nhs.net)

You can also keep in touch with the latest updates via the Facebook page.

### Hydrotherapy Services

A 12-week public consultation has just been launched to seek views on the future provision of hydrotherapy services in Berkshire West.

The consultation survey, run by the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (BWCCG), started on 10 August. Further information and the questionnaire are on their website: [www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/hydrotherapy](http://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/hydrotherapy)

Hydrotherapy is water based exercise which is an additional, 'complementary' service offered to a small percentage of patients needing physiotherapy.

### Building Berkshire Together

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is beginning a major modernisation of its services and buildings to develop and deliver outstanding NHS services that are fit for the future, and to play a greater part in the growth and development of their local economy. This long-term, modernisation programme will see the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds over the course of the next ten years and will involve every one of their public and private sector partners.

The Trust has just launched a digital platform giving full information about the plans to develop a masterplan, or blueprint, for an amazing hospital, delivering outstanding care and treatment for local people. They'd like patients, partners and local communities to help them design it so the new hospital is built with the real needs of patients and staff firmly in mind and everyone's expertise, experience, and ambition flow through the design.

Please register and login to the site, and take the survey to share what you would like to see: <https://thefutureroyalberkshire.uk/engagement/hq.com/royal-berkshire-fit-for-the-future>

## Recovery in Mind

Recovery in Mind offers free courses to adults in West Berkshire with mental health difficulties.

Set up four years ago, they've helped over 350 adults, designed and delivered over 20 different courses and under normal circumstances, would be running more than 50 courses during the year.

Founder Angela Ryan says; 'Covid-19 has had a significant impact on both people's physical and mental health. Come September we will be returning, offering adults in West Berkshire quality support to help them take back control and learn to live with their mental health challenges.'

There's full details of the courses at:  
<https://recoveryinmind.org>.

## Kooth - Online Support for Young Peoples' Mental Health

**New online support network launched in Berkshire West to help young people struggling with mental health difficulties.**

The Youth Counselling service, called Kooth, will complement a range of other mental health support packages provided for youngsters across Berkshire West. It's primarily aimed at dealing with issues around Covid but will play a key role in supporting the young people to re-adjust to life post-Covid.

Kooth, which is live now, provides a seven day a week online platform with a trained counsellor available until 10pm each night. It offers self-help and useful psychological information; moderated peer support alongside supervised and professional support. There is also an option of around 8 sessions with the same counsellor if this is felt the best way of helping the young person.



The service, which is aimed at 11 to 18 year olds, is being pioneered by Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in partnership with the 3 Local Authorities with support from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and our local voluntary sector. It's already up and running in 140 other CCG areas across the country, and last year supported more than 134,000 children and young people.

Kooth will virtually support children who are waiting to see a counsellor and also divert those who don't need a face to face appointment – freeing up places for more pressing cases. Special sessions for school staff are being held to raise awareness of the service, and there will be posters and information cards available to youngsters when they return to the classrooms in September.

"Covid has placed specific challenges on young people - the sudden interruption of their school life, separation from their friends, social isolation, being at home with family members who may be worried about jobs and finances, concerns about health - all on top of the other issues young people struggle with as they are growing up. These sort of worries won't go away for many of them when they go back to school in September which is why this easy-to-access online service is so invaluable".

## New Emergency Department Pilot

A new way of treating frail and some older people at the Emergency Department (ED) is being piloted in Reading to provide them with a separate, quieter more spacious area and easier access to specialist care.

The month long pilot at the Royal Berkshire Hospital is for some people aged over 80 and others who are potentially frail. It's aimed at reducing the number of times these patients have to be moved around ED as they are being assessed to determine their best course of treatment. It's hoped this will ease the confusion and disorientation older people can often experience during a visit to ED.

Space has been set aside for the new Older Person Emergency Department which is less busy, quieter and has easier access to bathrooms. There will be a range of health professionals staffing the area including an Occupational Therapist and Frailty Practitioner, ED nurses, doctors and health support workers. They will be supported by an Elderly Care Consultant/Registrar.

Older people and people living with frailty will be directed to the special area after they've had the routine tests like bloods and ECG if it's felt this is the most appropriate way to continue their treatment.



## If you're worried about Cancer

If you have any signs or symptoms of cancer, you may be worried about whether you will be able to see a GP or a specialist and get any tests you need. You may also be worried about whether it is safe to do so. Please do still contact your GP straight away, while coronavirus (COVID-19) is a concern, it is still important to talk to your GP about any worries you may have about cancer. If you do have cancer, this will help you to get a diagnosis as soon as possible

Cancer teams throughout the UK are doing their best to maintain services. They want to ensure that cancer diagnosis, treatment and care continues as much as possible.

Macmillan is doing everything they can to make sure their vital support continues to be available for much needed clinical advice, financial information and emotional support during this difficult time. Call 0808 808 0000 or go to [www.macmillan.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.macmillan.org.uk/coronavirus)

## Babies, Children and Facemasks

**Babies and children under three should not wear face masks.**

Health officials are warning that babies and children under the age of three must not wear masks or face coverings as they pose serious risks of choking and suffocation.

The Government introduced new rules on face masks in public places last month but, following the news that some shops were selling masks for very young children, the health teams at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group are warning parents of the dangers these pose.

Messages are being posted on social media and the health websites, [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk) and [www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.net](http://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.net)

Liz Stead, Head of Safeguarding Children at the CCG, said: "Whilst the wearing of masks for any child under the age of 11 is not compulsory, we've noticed some shops have been selling masks aimed specifically at babies and toddlers. We are very concerned about this and want to alert parents and carers to the dangers around masks and face coverings for these infants.

"The best way to protect young children is to follow the guidelines around frequent hand washing, keeping equipment and surfaces in the home cleaned, wiping down toys and baby changing mats and maintaining the social distancing rules.

"If a child starts to show any symptoms of concern – a high temperature and/or constant cough, parents and carers should go onto NHS 111 online or ring their GP surgery for advice," she added.



## Opportunities for Public Membership on NIHR Research Committees

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) involves patients and the public in their decision making processes on research funding and management.

They currently have voluntary opportunities for public members on their national research funding committees. There's information on their website. The closing date for applications is 9am, 7 September 2020.

If you have any queries please contact: [netspublic@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:netspublic@nihr.ac.uk).

## Berkshire West Shared Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020

Every few years, our local Councils produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy jointly with NHS colleagues to set out priorities for local people and enable commissioners to plan integrated services that meet the needs of the whole local community. Covid has meant that identifying the future local priorities for residents is more important than ever.

This year, an ambitious ten-year Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being drawn up to cover the whole Berkshire West patch - Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire. This is because they have similar populations with people working and socialising in different boroughs from where they live, and they share NHS services.

A lot of work has already taken place to gather data on local priorities in each of the boroughs, and the prioritisation process is due to start shortly, with the aim of publishing the final document early next year.

Covid has affected the way engagement with local people and key stakeholders can be carried out, but it's still vital to hear the views of local people. It's particularly important that people from the BAME community, vulnerable residents and those whose voices may not have previously been heard in discussions like this feel included and able to have their say.

Please take a little time to have a look at the survey - [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KRLJT7N](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KRLJT7N). The responses will shape a wider public consultation in the autumn.

### Health at Home

NHS Health at Home encourages patients to try online first when looking for an NHS service (<https://www.nhs.uk/health-at-home>).

About half way down this web page is a useful video **"If you need to contact a GP"** – this gives simple explanations on how to contact practices remotely.

### Fly Tipping

If you see any fly tipping around the parish, please report it to West Berkshire Council:

[http://www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe\\_case.aspx?lev=0](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe_case.aspx?lev=0)

## Family

### West Berks Ballet School

The thunderbolt hit WBBS on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March – instant closure. For us it was just one week before we broke up for the Easter break.

My lovely teachers, Mike and I scheduled an early video conference to discuss our future... Little did we know that 'video' was going to be the buzz word for the next 5 months!

The summer term was a mixture of video lessons and Zoom (another new buzz word). Zoom is far from ideal for anything connected with music, as you have all no doubt discovered. The varying difference in wifi connections and speeds means that there is a time delay and although it was lovely to see our dancers on the screen – some in their kitchens, some in their bedrooms with siblings and pets joining in with their lesson – it was a poor substitute from being together in our lovely Memorial Hall. Huge thank you to all the parents who sent us photos and videos of the children following their online lessons.



A Zoom planning session.

When we stopped direct teaching in March, Claire was weeks away from her 2020 production of 'The Wiz'. Rehearsals continued on Zoom throughout the summer term and, fingers crossed, we are hoping the show will take place during the February half-term next year.

End of term exams were cancelled but our school was chosen by the ISTD to trial video exams and four of our lovely Grade 5s were selected to dance in this new experimental session.

The government announced that children under 13 could carry on with 'out of school' activities, including dance, in

small groups so Claire has run her now traditional 2-week summer schools, producing an amazing video production of Annie. Talk about Cecil B DeMille – 3 cameras, black & white and colour – interior and exterior – it was a triumph! The cast had an amazing 4 days ‘filming’ (and even received a round of applause from the children in the playground one day!) They were able to watch the result on our brilliant large screen in the Oak Room on the final day. Of course we couldn’t have an audience so the parents will have DVDs to enjoy instead.

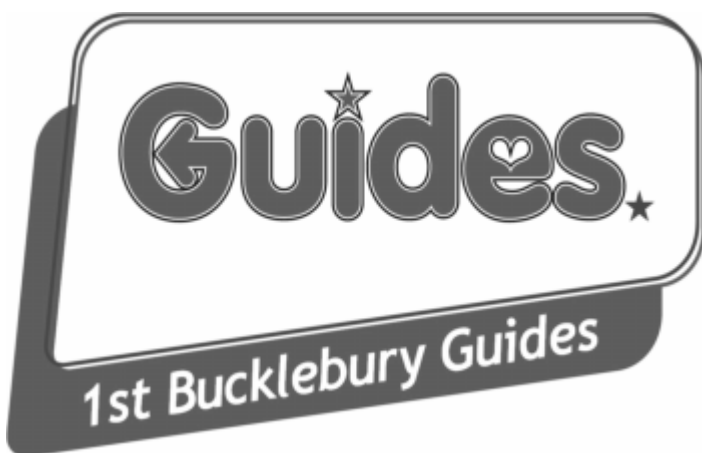
So, apart from being old hands at videoing and Zooming, we have become experts at disinfecting, sanitising and social distancing – never too old to learn new skills!

We are all hoping to be able to welcome our dancers back into the studio in September – our WBBS families are 100% in favour – we can’t thank you enough for your support of our precious school.

**Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden, Holly Unnuk & Lucie Wilson**

[www.wbbs.org](http://www.wbbs.org) and facebook.

## Bucklebury Guides



### 1st Bucklebury Guides needs you!

I will be taking over the unit over the course of the next term from Mel Wilkes who has done a fabulous job of running it thus far. We are looking for anyone who can spare some time to join us on a Monday evening 7-8.30pm in the Victory Room. You don’t need to have had any experience in Guiding just enthusiasm and a desire to have fun!

I was one of the first Guides to join Bucklebury Guides when it reopened in 2009, and I loved every second of my

three years there. I am so excited to have the opportunity to be able to recreate the experiences I had and share them with current and future Guides. Guides is structured around six themes: Know Myself; Express Myself; Be Well; Have Adventures; Take Action and Skills for My Future. During the weekly meetings activities will be centred around these themes run by both the Girls and Leaders. In addition to weekly meetings, Guides also go on day trips, sleepovers and camps and hopefully next summer to WINGS (Windsor International Guide and Scout Camp) in Windsor Great Park.

Bucklebury Guides had a busy start to 2020 working on the ‘Skills for my future’ skills builder. Guides spent time learning about money and understanding the value of saving money and budgeting. They created mini industries where they had to invest money in resources to create a product which they then sold to make a profit. They also learnt how some household issues can be fixed through DIY. Activities included changing the battery in a smoke alarm, changing a fuse in a plug and learning how to clean and maintain hinges. The Guides also had a visit from our local PCSO and learnt how to keep safe when out and about.

Over the course of lockdown, some of the Guides have completed a camp at home challenge. They set up camp (in or outdoors!), cooked their own food and played games before sharing their experience with other Guides. They have also been working towards completing interest badges.

If you or your daughter (11-14 years) is interested in joining Bucklebury Guides, please get in contact! Guides is all about building friendships, meeting new people, having fun, experiencing new things and having a say in what you want to do.

We will hopefully be returning to weekly meetings soon but will let current and prospective parents know via email. If you would like to be kept up to date, please email: [buckleburyguides@wilkesam1.plus.com](mailto:buckleburyguides@wilkesam1.plus.com)

**Vicky Pratt**



## Guiding in Bradfield

We have had an amazing summer term at Bradfield Brownies even though we haven't been able to meet face to face, but that hasn't stopped us from having fun! We have done baking, scavenger hunts and a talent show all via zoom. The girls were able to still see their friends at Brownies and take part in amazing activities, dressing up as their favourite book character and a Harry Potter character was a highlight. The summer term has been different but still brilliant and we are looking forward to the new term!

We also started a Rainbow unit before lockdown for girls aged from 5 to 7, and once we are able to, we will be returning to face to face activities.

For more information on Girlguiding in Bradfield Southend please call Helen on 07762112921.

**Helen, Gemma and Aisling**

**Volunteer with us**

*'I enjoy it so much. The girls are lovely and I feel I'm doing something worthwhile. It's amazing!'*  
Tayba, leader

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Join over 100,000 volunteers and inspire girls in your area by just being you!

**It's totally flexible**  
We know you're busy. But any help you can give will make a big difference. There's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes. You don't need any guiding experience and men are welcome too!

**Where we meet:**  
City/Town: The Victory Room, Bucklebury Village  
Day: Monday 7-8.30pm

**Be inspiring. Be you.**  
at [girlguiding.org.uk/interested](http://girlguiding.org.uk/interested)  
or call 0800 169 5901.

1st Bucklebury Guides  
WE DISCOVER, WE GROW  
Girlguiding

## Organisations

### Bucklebury History Society

The History Group had to cancel the talk in St Mary's Church by John Tennant this summer but we hope that this will be able to take place next year.

We are, however, gathering photos and articles concerning COVID19 and the lockdown in Bucklebury. What we all did on VE Day, the NHS Clapping on Thursdays, what we have been doing to keep ourselves occupied. Is your garden the best it has been – photos please! Have you painted stones and put them in the woods – on the common – did they get moved?

So, please, let's make our COVID19 archive interesting so that this year is remembered over the years. I sincerely hope we never have another one like it.

Stay safe everyone.

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

### Bucklebury Walkers

Obviously no organised walks have taken place since the start of lockdown. I think we have all 'done our own thing' and enjoyed the wonderful countryside around Bucklebury. I have copies of various walks that we have done with the group and am happy to pass these on to others.

In September Gary opened the pub for us to have a socially distanced cup of coffee outside (thank you, Gary) and it was so good to see many people there and catch up with everyone's news.

Pam & Dave Norman have agreed to lead walks in September – if we have to stay socially distanced then this is what we will do and make a VERY long crocodile. Weather permitting Gary will do outside coffee again. We welcome new members to our group. Please contact me if you need any more information.

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

## Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

### 2020 – OUR SPECIAL YEAR.

Our Special Year started so well, with a jolly Social followed by hilarious disclosures from a Beefeater, but clouds of doom had escaped from the East without warning and we were hit with the prospect of a new virus which spread like wildfire and was causing untold damage to human life. Stoically we carried on, but Carl Sadler's wood craft was only displayed to a small audience. The writing was on the wall, and fear in the air. Our Club's demographic was not best placed to resist the onslaught of "Chinese Flu", and the decision was made to cease all our activities for the foreseeable future. At least up to the Summer Show, but even this proved impractical under the restrictions that were imposed during the lock-down. Confined to our homes we had time to knock our gardens into shape, but no opportunity to show them off!

However we are very lucky to live in rural Bucklebury, the surrounding countryside providing plenty of opportunity to exercise safely, and the glorious summer weather has been an excuse to relax in our beautiful gardens. The committee have recently held an impromptu meeting to consider the remainder of the year under the current advice. We met in the open air of the Memorial Hall car park! It was decided that the Autumn Show would be very difficult, and in line with most others have decided to cancel. The same goes for planning a Social this year, however we think that the AGM should still take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. We do not know exactly how this will turn out, but we will do our best. In addition to our gardens benefiting from the extra attention, our finances are in good order as our expenses have been less than normal. We decided not to offer a free year or consider a reduction in subscriptions. At the AGM we propose a free draw, with all members automatically given the chance to win one of three £100.00 prizes to ensure the lucky winners have a merry Christmas. The Century Club is still running and the balance of those draws will be resolved, and bulbs will be available for the 2021 daffodil Challenge.

Although Wisley Gardens are accepting private bookings, Group bookings are not yet available.

Happy gardening and keep healthy.

**Derek Matthews**

## Tuesday Ladies Club–TLC

What strange times we have been living in! So much has changed since I wrote the last report for The Oaks in February. Due to the nature of our TLC meetings we have been unable to run through the lockdown and subsequent easing of restrictions. We very much look forward to the time when we can all get together again and reinstate our programme of talks and events.

During the lockdown I have seen other members when I have been out walking around the parish and been able to have some lovely 'socially distanced' conversations. The unanimous consensus of these chats is always how lucky we are to live in such a lovely part of West Berkshire where we can get out to exercise, and keep our sanity, in such beautiful surroundings. The other recurring theme was the wonderful sense of community where friends and neighbours have been doing all they can to support each other in so many different ways. The weekly clap for the dedication and service of the NHS and carers brought everyone together in a way few had experienced before and encouraged talk of the 'blitz spirit.' Captain Tom made us all proud and the mostly good weather seemed heaven sent! Personally I feel I know my neighbours even better now than in early March, especially those who are normally out at work all day, and it has been the silver lining to this period of restrictions.

I am aware that many families may have been touched by loss during this time and many more may be affected by health and economic issues in the future. The strength of our community to support others now and in the future seems to have been reinforced during this pandemic and I hope it continues to do this well. I feel proud to be part of such a caring community.

The TLC committee looks forward to meeting with all our friends again as soon as it is safe to do so. We will be communicating via email to members if any changes occur between editions of The Oaks. Maybe members could pass on any information to friends and neighbours that may like to join us.

TLC is a social group for women in our community and surrounding areas and all are welcome. The committee can be reached with any queries at the email address below:

[buckleburytcl@gmail.com](mailto:buckleburytcl@gmail.com)

**Carole Clothier Membership Secretary of TLC**

## Seated Exercises

Before lockdown, I had been running gentle exercise classes at the village halls in Bucklebury and Aldermaston – this was a great opportunity for people to come together for a chat and a laugh whilst benefitting from the exercise. With lockdown happening so quickly, there was no real chance to say goodbye or discuss what we might do instead. Luckily a couple of the participants had my details and got in touch with me to ask if we could set something up online. It took a few weeks, but at the start of April we started our Zoom exercise classes! This was a brilliant way for people to get the social interaction we were all missing so much but also to fit in that all important exercise. We started with about 8 people and there are now regularly between 10-20 attendees from Bucklebury, Aldermaston and surrounding areas and even one lady's daughter from Switzerland joins us!

The sessions take place on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, they are 30 mins long and cost £2 per person per session (you don't need to commit, just pay for the sessions you attend) I incorporate lots of variety ensuring that different muscle groups are worked as well as including some cardio vascular exercise to keep the fitness levels up. On a Monday, we do circuits!

It has been amazing to watch everyone progress over the last few months and I'm always having to think of ways to make it harder so everyone can keep challenging themselves. Exercise aside, the chat, banter and laughter we have during the sessions is brilliant and make the sessions great fun. I have received feedback from participants saying what a difference the sessions have made to them during lockdown – a bit of normality during these crazy times!

I still don't know what will happen with the classes in the halls and await further guidance on this, however we are going to continue with these Zoom sessions for the foreseeable future. Everyone is welcome to join - you do need to have an e-mail address and ideally an iPad or laptop, so if you would like to give it a go, please call or e-mail me and we can have a chat about it all.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well,

With Best Wishes,

**Caroline Hinke**

## Mah-Jong

No mah-jong meetings have taken place now for 5 months and I don't think we will start up yet. It would be very difficult playing inside in close proximity to each other, wearing masks and having to make sure the pieces are suitably cleaned etc. Please contact me if you would like to be added to my list as I will be making contact with members to check their thoughts.

Stay safe everyone.

**Helen Relf**

**01635 867619**

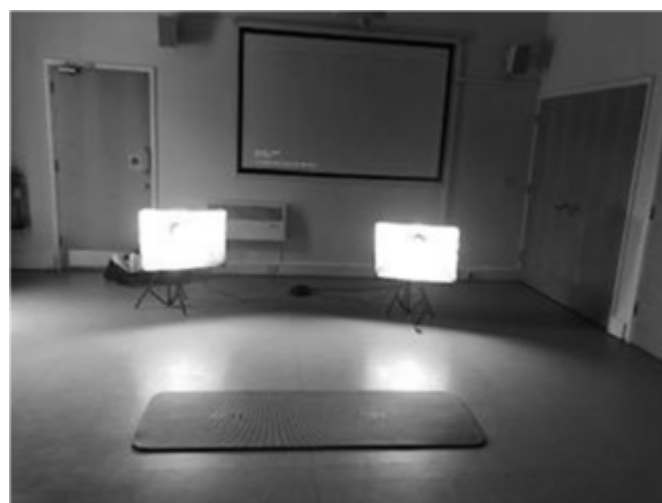
[grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com)

## Pilates

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

Relaxation  
Alignment  
Co-ordination  
Core stability  
Stamina  
Concentration  
Breathing  
Flowing movements.

What strange times we have lived through during the last 4 months. Lockdown came on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March....so we had



We really appreciated the big screen in the Oak Room for teaching our Zoom sessions.

to cancel our regular classes in halls...but managed to be up and running teaching classes on Zoom. I have to say we had help from some wonderful clients who provided a suitable venue, and Mike Scholl who managed to reconnect broadband at Bucklebury Memorial Hall so that we could then continue teaching from there. Many clients have loved zooming enjoying the benefits of not having to travel to classes and it's been so lovely that some people who have moved from the area have re-joined regular sessions. It's also been great fun for us seeing some little people joining in with parts of the classes.....as well as the inevitable cat or dog!!! These classes have also helped us all to feel connected. We have certainly really loved seeing everyone and thank our clients for their continued support.

Michaela and I have taken the opportunity during these months to practise our own technique with renowned instructors...some as far away as in Athens and Dubai. Mel also spent time training with Michael King completing his Bridging Course. Michaela is now very excited to be booked onto her Advanced Matwork Course in October at the Body Control Centre in London.

We have qualifications to teach **Reformer, Pre and Post Natal Pilates** as well as **Pilates for Bone Health (Osteoporosis)**

Classes are held at **Bucklebury Memorial Hall** in **The Oak Room** on Monday and Wednesday Evenings as well as Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Michaela will be hoping to return to teaching at **Peasemore Village Hall** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** evenings.

Our current plan is to continue teaching some online classes and some classes in halls for those that are ready. We are also hoping to add additional classes. The timetable will be confirmed hopefully at the end of August/ beginning of September.

We are also able to offer one to one sessions.

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



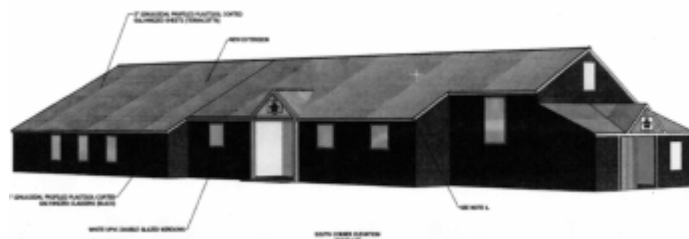
## Halls

### The Victory Room

The Victory Room was closed in March and is yet to re-open. We are communicating with all the users of the hall and will re-open when the time is right for them.

Sadly, all the fundraising events planned for 2020 have now been cancelled. The trustees do not think government advice will allow anything to proceed for the remainder of 2020 which means we will have an enforced break from the Beerfest this year.

The planning application submitted to West Berkshire Council for the refurbishment and extension of the Victory Room was approved at the end of March.



We have been working hard to raise the remaining funds and during lockdown we were successful with two grant applications to ACRE and Garfield Weston that will contribute a total of £45k to the project. We would like to thank everyone that has contributed either directly to the Victory Room account or to the Good Exchange where the donations were matched funded and many gift aided. With these donations we have raised the funds we require to proceed to the next stage of the project. We have appointed structural engineers to prepare documents for building regulation approval and we plan to submit this to WBC in the next few weeks. We will also be using these documents to obtain more detailed quotations for the project.

**John Brims**

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

**0118 9713308 or 07799 348451**

[jbrims@outlook.com](mailto:jbrims@outlook.com)

## **GWR Class 6803 'Bucklebury Grange' our very own steam engine**

The Great Western Railway (GWR) designed and built steam locomotives that were both elegant and superbly constructed. The main production works were in Swindon where it made some of the most powerful locomotives over a period spanning over 100 years, commencing from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In many respects the GWR had been the pioneer of the then modern railway with such great engineering names as Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Daniel Gooch, Major William Dean, G.J. Churchward, C.B. Collet and F.S. Hawksworth.

In the very early days of the railways, locomotives were known by their name alone. As the numbers of locomotives increased, it became necessary to refer to them by number (although many were named as well). The GWR used fine cast brass number plates carried on the cab side to identify its locomotives and its number series never exceeded 4 digits throughout the entirety of its existence. The GWR was generally very organised and consistent when naming locomotives with whole classes of locomotives being named according to a theme. Thus the most powerful King class express locomotives were all named after British kings, next down in prowess were the Castle class named after Castles. After the Castles, in order of precedence came the Hall class named after Halls and then the Granges which were numbered in the 6800 series and named after Granges in the area served by the GWR. Locomotive 6803 was named 'Bucklebury Grange'.

Driving wheel diameter had a big impact on the haulage characteristics of a steam locomotive. Express locomotives had large diameter wheels (typically 6' to around 6'8") which were suitable for high speed running but the large diameter wheels reduced the hauling capacity. Freight locomotives had much smaller diameter wheels (typically around 4' diameter) to maximise haulage capacity but these were only capable of low speed running. The majority of freight trains had either no or only a very limited number of wagons with brakes that were controllable by the driver and so could only run at 15 to 20 mph to ensure that they could stop when required. Mixed traffic locomotives had a driving wheel diameter typically between about 5' and 6' and, as the name suggested, meant that they could handle freight (apart from the heaviest mineral workings), parcels and cross-country / stopping / excursion passenger trains and in reality this type of locomotive was the backbone of the steam railway. The Great Western had a large mixed traffic 4-6-0 the Hall Class with 6' diameter driving wheels which gave them a greater turn of speed but impacted their haulage capacity.

Locomotives are usually classified by their wheel

arrangement. A 4-6-0 has a four wheel bogie in front of the 6 driving wheels. Back in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, rather than a 4-6-0 design, Churchward opted for a slightly smaller 2-6-0 design with 5'8" diameter wheels. 342 locomotives of what became known as the 4300 Class were built between 1911 and 1932 with the design being so successful that many were used by the military in Europe during the First World War. The last two batches were built by Churchward's successor Charles Collet. The design was based on proven standard components, the cylinders from the Saint Class of 4-6-0s, the wheels of a class of suburban tank engines and the standard No. 4 boiler.

By the mid-30s, the earliest of the 4300 2-6-0s were showing their age and with train loads and speeds increasing, a more powerful locomotive was required. Churchward's successor Charles Collet planned to rebuild the 4300 class of 2-6-0s to fulfil Churchward's original 1901 plan for a mixed traffic 4-6-0 with 5'8" diameter driving wheel by re-using the wheels, valve motion and tenders for the new locomotives. When considering the rebuilding of the 4300 2-6-0s into 4-6-0s the extra pair of carrying wheels at the front increased the overall length of the locomotive allowing a bigger boiler rated at 225 psi to be fitted and also allowed the fitting of a larger and more comfortable cab. The 4300 cabs were pretty spartan affairs whereas the Granges were fitted with much more commodious side window cabs reflecting the slowly increasing demands for improved working conditions.

100 of the 43xx 2-6-0s were withdrawn and rebuilt, 80 as Granges and 20 as the smaller, lighter Manor or Class 7800. It had been intended to rebuild all of the Class 4300 locomotives in this way but the start of WW2 saw the programme suspended and it was never continued after the end of hostilities. The Grange Class were built in 2 batches, the first (including 'Bucklebury Grange') between August 1936 and December 1937 with the remainder of the class built between February and May 1939.

'Bucklebury Grange' was completed and operational on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1936 and was allocated initially to the shed at Wolverhampton (Oxley). When based at Wolverhampton, it would have typically worked west and north of Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury, Chester and up to Birkenhead or south towards Banbury as well as around the West Midlands, mainly on 'fast' freights from Birkenhead docks as well as secondary passenger trains. These fast freight trains would typically run at speeds of 40 to 60 mph and with either all or a significant proportion of the wagons fitted with automatic brakes under the control of the driver conveying perishable goods such as fruit and broccoli. The Granges were also popular for powering excursion trains. In August 1950 'Bucklebury Grange' was allocated to Banbury but had migrated back to the West Midlands and Stourbridge Junction shed by March 1959. At Banbury, 'Bucklebury Grange' would typically have worked fast





*Bucklebury Grange 30/10/1961 (© D Southgate)*

freights and inter-regional passenger trains towards London via the Chiltern route, down through Oxford towards Reading and north to Wolverhampton. Steam locomotives never generally tended to work much more than 50 to 100 or so miles from their home depot before being swapped for another locomotive. Of course there were exceptions such as the locomotives which hauled the non-stop Anglo Scottish services but they were just that – exceptions. This was why there was always great excitement amongst spotters when a ‘foreign’ locomotive from a far-away shed appeared, perhaps on an excursion or as a result of being ‘borrowed’ by a depot that was short of an engine to work a service. It is thus unlikely that ‘Bucklebury Grange’ was a regular performer anywhere near her namesake.

May 1965 saw Bucklebury Grange move to her final shed allocation which took her back to Wolverhampton Oxley



Bucklebury Grange name plate and number on display at Kidderminster Railway Museum 2020.

from where she was withdrawn on 28th September 1965 having served for 29 years and travelled some 843,825 miles. After withdrawal in the early autumn of 1965, “Bucklebury Grange” was sadly broken up and disposed of at Birds of Long Marston.

In 2011 one of the two Bucklebury Grange brass name plates sold at Auction for £15,100 and in 2016 one of the



two engine numbers sold for £1800 at Auction to private collectors. Fortunately an example of each has been retained on display at the Kidderminster Railway Museum.

To commemorate the first birthday of His Royal Highness Prince George on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014, Hornby created a detailed model named “Bucklebury Grange” after the West Berkshire village’s family home of his mother Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. 500 of the models were produced of which the first 200 were sold in a special numbered limited edition sleeve for Harrods.

Although all of the Granges were scrapped at the end of steam, good progress is being made with the construction of a replica, number 6880, ‘Betton Grange’ (<http://www.6880.co.uk/>) at the Llangollen Railway. The project started back in 1998 and the boiler was first steamed just before Christmas 2019 having undergone very extensive refurbishment at Tysely locomotive works just outside Birmingham.

The construction of the new Grange has been made much easier by the Great Western’s policy of standardisation as the project has been able to make use of various components from other GWR locomotives including the boiler which came from a Hall class locomotive, the wheels are a spare set from a preserved 4300 2-6-0 on long term loan from the Severn Valley Railway, the leading bogie and tender have been borrowed from another Hall class locomotive belonging to the ‘Betton Grange’ project group. Although there is still much to do to complete the locomotive, the prospect of being able to ride behind a Grange class locomotive once again is now within sight.

**Jeremy Hunns**  
**David Southgate**

## The River Pang

Back before lockdown (can you remember then?), we endured storms Ciara and Dennis. Bucklebury Village found itself well defended from potential floods out of the River Pang, but instead suffered surface water flows from surrounding fields, into a road drainage system that could not cope. Thankfully the villagers worked together with their neighbouring farmer to suck away the waters that were building up on the road (threatening houses) and from the road drainage system. We all remained dry thanks to a large water bowser and tractor.

Once the storms had gone and we found ourselves confined to the village, I saw the potential to harness the desire to help each other into a means of improving the state of the River Pang. The River Pang between Bucklebury Village and the copse below Briff Lane had not had decent maintenance for many years. There were many trees that had fallen into the river; these had caught car debris washed down from Bucklebury Ford; the river was not in a good state for fish.

Over a pair of weekends, a working party of 17 people worked together with the neighbouring farmer to clear back trees and overgrown vegetation. Our aim was to allow free fish passage, to reduce flood risk and to allow more light into the river from the north. We uncovered historical brick structures built in the 1800s that had been used to divert the river to old channels in the fields to the north of the river. With tractors, chainsaws, waders and good social distancing, the team felt that their teamwork had been a great community endeavour with a good environmental benefit.

In the meantime, whilst locked away, the Environment

Agency were not able to do their regular mowing of the Bucklebury Flood Channel. Stepping forward into their place, villagers with mowers were able to work as a team to do the mowing instead. Think of those photos of combine harvesters working in Kansas, and you'll get the picture.

More recently the fit members of the village have worked to keep the river running through the village in a good state, ensuring that whilst we might have been threatened with large thunderstorms, that the river was running freely. It is now running as a clear chalk and gravel stream and trout have been seen again.

A big thank you to all who have helped during this period.

Many may have seen how the river has been very clogged in the vicinity of Bucklebury Ford, with the result that a nearby field remained flooded for many months. We have now reached an agreement with the Environment Agency whereby they will dig out the accumulated silt and vegetation this autumn through that stretch.

Finally, it is worth noting that the management of the river in Bucklebury is done in consideration of flood alleviation works done through the whole Pang Valley. The Pang Valley Flood Forum ([www.floodalleviation.uk](http://www.floodalleviation.uk)) brings together representatives from all the parishes in the valley, and works with West Berkshire Council, Thames Water and the Environment Agency. They have a number of projects running in the valley, and provide useful maps and dashboards on their website.

**Piers Allison - Bucklebury Flood Warden.**



The Uncovered Brick Structure in the River Pang

## Sports

### FC Cougars

FC Cougars are a fun and friendly youth football club with players from Bucklebury, Thatcham and the surrounding areas.

All our young footballers have returned to playing regular football after recent guidance allowed competitive football to re-start. Time in lockdown was spent playing different games such as the toilet roll challenge - but nothing beats being back out on grass with friends. We are all hoping the virus stays away and looking forward to the new football season starting in September 2020.

For the new season we are running four age groups, for children in years 2 to 8, with all our teams competing in the Reading and West Berkshire League. Our two younger teams are set to be based at Bucklebury Primary School. We have children from Bucklebury Primary but also other schools in the area and it is a great chance to mix with other local children and enjoy playing football.

We are currently looking for new players who are looking to play regular football. We offer an organised and safe environment for all our players, and welcome boys and girls of all abilities. Our team managers and coaches have in-date DBS, first aid and safeguarding qualifications. For more details on any of our teams please see [www.fccougars.com](http://www.fccougars.com) or contact [graham@fccougars.com](mailto:graham@fccougars.com)



# PLAYERS WANTED

**U7s (year 2):** New team for Sep 2020  
**U9s (year 3/4):** Limited spaces  
**U11s (year 5/6):** FULL  
**U13s (year 7/8):** Limited spaces  
**CONTACT** [graham@fccougars.com](mailto:graham@fccougars.com)

## Contributions

Material to appear in The Oaks should be sent neatly typed for scanning or as a word-processor document (e.g. MS Word), attached to an e-mail and sent to “[clerk@buckleburyparish.org](mailto:clerk@buckleburyparish.org)”.

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 preceeding publication.**

**Barry Dickens**

Published in February, May and October

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

Helen Pratt, Clerk,

Jasmine Cottage, Byles Green, Upper Bucklebury,

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## Parish Diary Dates

### September

14th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).
27th	Cemetery working party	10.00am	Cemetery, Byles Green.
28th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).

### October

1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
10th	Common Clearing & Litter Pick	2.00pm	Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury.
12th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).
26th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).

### November

5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	TBA
9th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).
23rd	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).

### December

3rd	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	TBA
14th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).

### January

11th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).
25th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Zoom meeting (contact the Clerk for details).