

The Oaks



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Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk
Helen Pratt

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Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

For the first time, probably in living memory, the Spring Common Clearing had to be postponed due to snow which hid the rubbish! Hopefully by the end of the month, and the new date, spring will have arrived.

There has been a lot of damage this winter by the illegal use of 4x4 vehicles both on the common and along the River Pang. It is very expensive to rectify the damage, so if you see people behaving irresponsibly please ring the police on 101, take a photo, and if possible take the registration number. BPC continues to work with WBC, the Commons Advisory Committee and the police to try to address the problem.

A third well attended and successful Neighbourhood Police Meeting was held on 27th March in the Oak Room. The police were able to report good progress and it is to be hoped that the spate of vandalism we suffered from last year will not be repeated. The Police Liaison Group will continue to meet and monitor the situation.

The Flood Alleviation Team must be very pleased that all the measures that were put in place have worked so well during this very wet winter. We are, once more, indebted to their dedication and hard work.

The Parish Plan Refresh Review was held in February and gave us the opportunity to evaluate how much has been achieved as a result of the Plan. Peter Brook has been a very dedicated driver of the Plan and has enabled a great deal to be achieved in the Parish. Some projects such as Superfast Broadband and traffic calming are ongoing, but the formation of the Bucklebury Events Committee and TLC

were among two success stories. The Plan will be reviewed annually by BPC.

School traffic in the roads around the school continues to be a concern, posing not only a danger to children but to other drivers. BPC have written a letter to the parents raising the concerns and asking for their co-operation. White lines have been drawn at the junction of Blacklands and Berry's Rd indicating who has right of way and bollards will be erected round the wide verge on the corner of Woodside Close and Berry's Rd to prevent cars parking on it and potentially damaging the services which run close to the surface. The situation will continue to be monitored and it is hoped that more parents will use "park and stride."

A planning application for the restoration of the watermill near the small bridge on the River Pang has been received by BPC. The Council had no objection to the application but made several comments and asked for conditions to be imposed. There were concerns from a number of parishioners about the consequences of opening a restored mill to the public. There was also concern about the current safety of the derelict mill structures, and unfortunately, since then, part of the mill has fallen into the river. Over the course of two BPC meetings parishioners voices were heard and their concerns passed on.

A grit bin has been requested at the junction of Holly Lane and Tylers Lane and this will be installed before next winter.

And so the work of BPC goes on. Please let the clerk know if you have any concerns about the parish which you would like to raise. Members of the public attending the BPC meetings who wish to

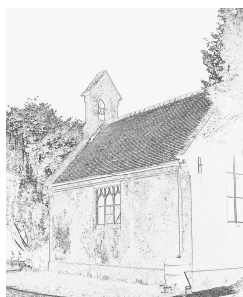
speeches are usually heard as soon as is practical at the start of the meeting and the agenda altered accordingly, so don't worry that you will have to give up a whole evening!

Don't forget the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Friday 17th May at 8pm in the Memorial Hall. This year, we will have an update from various groups within the parish and displays from many more. We look forward to your company.

Wynne Frankum - Chairman BPC

Parish Council Matters Arising

Bucklebury Cemetery



The chapel was used for a lovely funeral this year, the first for many years.

The large wooden cross that was erected in the 1970's has become loose and the surrounding paving slabs and wall broken in places. The Burial Board have decided that the only safe thing to do is remove the cross and ascertain its condition. The wall and paving slabs will be removed. It is hoped to re-erect the cross within a smaller base.

We are waiting for a quote to have the gates at the front repainted in the original colour, dark green and hope the work will be carried out this summer.

We are fortunate in having a dedicated volunteer to put out the bins and remove dead floral tributes from the graves when families cannot tend them regularly themselves. Unfortunately an unauthorised person is causing much distress by removing tributes themselves in an ad hoc manner. If you see anybody acting in this fashion we would be grateful if you could supply the Clerk, Helen Pratt, with details.

Hopefully the cemetery will again have a lovely show of wild flowers this spring and summer which the grounds men allow to seed before they are cut. We are lucky to have a cemetery which provides a wonderful habitat and haven for wildlife. On that note Helen Pratt saw a muntjac deer squeezing through the railings of the big front gate! Fortunately its companion was too fat! She could hardly believe her eyes. Just look at the gap next time you pass!

Wynne Frankum Chairman of the Burial Board.

Police Liaison Committee

The ongoing efforts of the local police have begun to reap rewards. The current wave of anti-social behaviour appears to be in decline, and the police have arrested/cautioned/ issued warnings to a number of individuals they believe to be involved in these and other offences. Our thanks go to the police for their unceasing efforts. However, these successes are no reason to become complacent. While Thames Valley Police have been highly pro-active in dealing with this recent wave of crime, without our continued support they can only continue to achieve so much. That support comes mainly in the form of reporting criminal activity, the necessity of which cannot be overly stressed, however small and insignificant the information appears to be. While any information might not lead directly to an arrest it may help build up a picture of criminal behaviour and be constructive in allowing the police to react to crime as it happens or prevent future crimes.

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

As well as leading to an increased police presence, the recent wave of criminal activity led to a wide reaching response from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the formation of the Bucklebury Police Liaison Committee. The Liaison Committee was originally formed to help deal with anti-social behaviour, and continues to meet bi-monthly to fulfil this purpose, though its remit has been widened to consider the prevention of other criminal activities within the parish. A number of initiatives are being investigated, ranging from the provision of crime prevention advice at one of the local societies to an examination of the viability of covert, low-light cameras.

Unfortunately criminal activities continue within the parish so vigilance is still required:

- Burglaries are still occurring from garages, sheds and especially oil tanks. Although crime figures for the Bucklebury area are similar to other rural communities please ensure the security of outbuildings and consider fitting an alarm to any oil tanks.
- Speeding through the parish remains endemic. The Police are very much aware, and police and WBC cameras continue to be deployed.
- Flytipping continues around different parts of the Common. If you see someone fly-tipping then please report it to the police, otherwise report the rubbish to streetcare@westberks.gov.uk or to the Parish Clerk. It will normally be removed within 48 hours. Please remember that you may inadvertently become involved

with fly tipping if you give waste to an unlicensed person for disposal. Please confirm the credentials of any waste tipping service you use. Using that 'man and van' who offers to remove your rubbish could lead to penalties of up to £5,000, should you not check that the company you give waste to a) has a licence to carry waste and b) is not taking it to an unlicensed site. Please be wary.

- There are a number of sites around the Parish where vehicles are being driven illegally. Unless on a Byway, driving anywhere off-road is illegal, as is driving on paths and bridleways, and all need to be reported to the police. Equally, it is illegal to drive on an unrestricted byway without full insurance, tax and MOT, and even with these, users need to be considerate to others, not damage the surface and observe road and bylaws. There are a number of circumstances where these requirements are not being met – there is a lot of damage to the banks of the Pang, to the area around Ramsbury Corner, part of the Lower Common and there are the usual areas of 'mud plugging' (churning up tracks). BPC are currently getting quotes to put in protection for the Pang and considering the purchase of covert cameras to hide in threat areas, and WBC and Bucklebury estate are in ongoing discussions as how best to protect the various areas around the common. However, causing damage to the Common and the Pang are criminal offences and so if you see vehicles either off the byways or causing damage to the surface, please do not hesitate to contact the police. Even if the police cannot respond immediately, your report will help build the intelligence on usage that will allow the police to be pro-active in catching law-breakers. All parties involved are committed to eradicating illegal use of the common, so please report any vehicles that are not driving on byways, are damaging the surface or being driven in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner. Photos or registrations are obviously beneficial. In a similar manner, as the summer approaches - the Hockett Field is privately owned by BPC and not to be used for motorcycles – if your children are planning on doing this please stop them.

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

Bucklebury Police Liaison Group

Parish Website

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch

The following Neighbourhood Watch groups exist within the parish.

Burden's Heath	<i>Rob Tayton</i>	<i>01635 865495</i>
Turner's Green	<i>Neil Rendall</i>	<i>01635 865899</i>
Blacklands Rd, Berry's Road and Woodside Close	<i>Mrs S Dorling</i>	<i>01635 864256</i>
Bucklebury Village	<i>B Ward</i>	<i>0118 971 2581</i>
Hatch Close	<i>C Fleming</i>	<i>0118 971 2315</i>
Hatch Lane(central)	<i>Frank Harvell</i>	<i>0118 971 0021</i>
The Avenue (east end, south side)	<i>Mrs J Bynwater</i>	<i>0118 974 4124</i>
The Avenue (east end, north side)	<i>John Travis</i>	<i>0118 974 4616</i>
The Slade	<i>Hilary Cairns</i>	<i>01635 866021</i>
Briff Lane	<i>Philip Teal</i>	<i>01635 866587</i>
Broad Lane (track)	<i>Ian Westbury</i>	<i>01635 864230</i>
Broad Lane (west)	<i>Richard Sadler</i>	<i>01635 865846</i>
Broad Lane (east)	<i>Becky Hannam</i>	<i>01635 863313</i>
Morton's Lane	<i>Geraldine Tovey</i>	<i>01635 866757</i>
Byles Green	<i>Jeremy Brooke</i>	<i>01635 863035</i>

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

Bucklebury Annual Parish Assembly

Friday 17th May 2013

8pm

**Memorial Hall,
Upper Bucklebury**

Find out what has happened through the year
and what is in the pipeline.

But above all have your say in what you want.

Refreshments will be available after the meeting.

Bucklebury Clubs/Organisations

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

Welcome Pack

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

West Berks Community Information

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

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

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

For non-emergency calls, the Police can be contacted on 101.

West Berks District Councillors

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

Graham Pask Tel/Fax: 01635 864023
Email: gpask@westberks.gov.uk

Quentin Webb Tel/Fax: 01635 201435
Email: qwebb@westberks.gov.uk

WBC Councillors' Report

In every issue of The Oaks we seem to write about the state of our local roads and we make no apology in doing so again as this is one of the major issues raised by residents who contact us and is invariably the first topic brought up at Parish Assemblies. As reported in the last issue of The Oaks the Council has received a grant of £900,000 from the government, which recognises that road maintenance is a national issue, and we are to receive £600,000 this year with £300,00 next year.

We too acknowledge that this is one of our top priorities and have safeguarded our road maintenance budget so that this year we will spend over £4million repairing the damage caused by the wettest summer and longest winter for many years. These works are about to start in earnest according to Mark Edwards our lead officer for highways, with the worst sections of road being prioritised, so we should start to see some real improvements now the weather is becoming warmer.

In the meantime please report any potholes to the WBC Streetcare team on 01635 42400 or via the WBC website: westberks.gov.uk and the "Report a problem, fault or emergency" option. The council will temporarily fill any dangerous holes within 24 hours and will log the site for a permanent patch when the team is in the area, the more reports filed raises the profile of Bucklebury and will assist with the pressure we are placing on the highways department to prioritise our parish. We promise to keep up the pressure!

One new innovation to report is the use of QR codes (quick response code, a type of barcode) on the orange planning notices, if you have the technology (a modern mobile phone!) it is now possible to obtain details of the planning application almost instantaneously! While on the subject of planning, the government's proposal to allow certain extensions to be built with minimal consultation has been rejected and is to be reconsidered later in the parliamentary year in a different form which will allow neighbours to comment and object. If objections are made then the planning application will need to go through the full planning process.

As always please contact us if there are any District Council issues you wish to comment about.

Graham Pask and Quentin Webb.

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team

PC Kirsten Goodfield from Thatcham Neighbourhood Team has confirmed that Thomas Pinder pleaded guilty in court to running over and killing a sheep off Cox's lane and was fined £440 of which £100 was compensation for the sheep.

Additionally three persons have been stop checked and identified on Briff Lane, two were carrying air rifles in sleeves. They are now aware of the possible consequence should they be caught shooting where they do not have permission or if seen shooting in a public place.

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

sarah.preston@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
kirsten.goodfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
paula.morgan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Community Council Berkshire (CCB)

CCB is running a **FREE day of workshops and networking opportunities** for people who have an interest in getting more involved with their community, including:

- Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks
- Community Led Planning group members
- Neighbourhood Planning Members
- Or any Berkshire resident interested in getting more involved in their local community

The event will be held on **Saturday the 18th of May at Theale Green Community School in Theale from 9.45 a.m until 15:30 p.m**

The Workshops will be on: **Community Rights, Neighbourhood Planning, Funding opportunities, Community Led Planning, Involving your Community in Energy Efficiency, Volunteer Recruitment, Data Analysis or forming your questionnaire, Project Management, Marketing and Promotion.**

This is a practical day that will aim to 'tool' you up for tackling projects in your community. Please phone: CCB: 0118 961 2000 Tessa Hall: 07966 236408 or email: tessa.hall@ccberks.org.uk

Family

Bucklebury C of E Primary School

Wow, what a busy time the School has had since Christmas!



The weather has posed all of the usual problems, but it has also provided plenty of opportunities for the pupils not only to enjoy the snow but also to learn from it. For example, our Year 6 children conducted an investigation into melting and freezing, and

many children wrote poems or accounts of their experience in the snow.

We're keen to take advantage of such innovative learning opportunities, so receiving a large delivery of bark for the outdoor play area (courtesy of FoBs, the Friends of Bucklebury School) after half-term was just too tempting. Year 6 were set the task of



working out the volume of bark required for the job, and also how much it would cost. They even got stuck in moving and raking the bark. Great physical exercise, and a really good example of excellent teamwork in action.

A key achievement this spring was the completion of the School's "self-supported review". The School will not face a formal OFSTED inspection until summer 2014, so the Governing Body decided to take advantage of the opportunity to have a self-supported review. Essentially, this is a light version of the full OFSTED review, conducted by a team of West Berkshire advisers. This is a great, optional way of understanding how the School is doing on the various areas of assessment and the Governing Body was delighted at the results. The School is clearly continuing to do well, but we are anything but complacent; the review has also identified areas on which to focus to make sure that the positive developments continue.

Despite the challenging weather our pupils have taken part in a number of sporting events, including football, netball, tag rugby and cross-country. We are very lucky to have great staff and parents who volunteer their time to help our pupils to participate in such events.

One of the highlights of the term was the Year 6 residential trip in March to the Osmington Bay facility. School residential trips can clearly increase the independence and resilience of the children, as well as developing team spirit and collaborative learning – and being enormous fun for all concerned! Kennet School remarks upon how well our children cope with residential trips in year 7, compared with children from primary schools which don't offer them. We're very proud to have this trip on our annual schedule.

We're now well into the summer term (and hopefully the summer has also arrived by the time you read this!). The various areas of focus for this term are the SATs (standard assessment tests) that will be sat by our Year 6 pupils in May, preparing them for their transition to secondary school and, of course, our summer production/play which will involve the whole School. As ever, we will continue our relentless pursuit of excellence in the progress, attainment and wellbeing of all of our pupils.

Finally, a date for your diary is the School summer fete which will be held on Saturday 6 July from 12.30 to 3.30pm. This is a very important annual event for the School, and a lot of hard work goes into making it the fun and successful event it is. It's the one day in the year when the School can welcome the whole community, and of course it also raises much-needed funds. We very much hope to see you there!

**Daniel Tozer, Local Authority Governor,
Bucklebury C of E Primary School**

Friends of Bucklebury Primary

Friends of Bucklebury School has been busy fundraising. Over the past few months we have held a school disco and our Bag 2 School collection. Many thanks to those in the community who gave us bags – we raised over £100. There will be another collection on 24th October so do think of us when you are swapping back to your winter wardrobe!



Our current fundraising focus is to update the technology throughout the school. Many of our computers are starting to run slow and we are looking forward to replacing these and also adding some new technology into the classroom.

This term we will be holding two fundraising events that we would like to warmly invite the local community to be a part of. On **Friday 17th May** we will be holding our annual **Quiz night**. Teams need to be between 4 and 8 people. Tickets cost £7 per person and will include a jacket potato supper. If you would like to enter a team please contact the school office on 01635 862965 for more information.

On **Saturday 6th July** from 12.30pm – 3.30pm we will be holding our annual **Summer Fete** on the school field. This is always great fun and really makes memories for the children. I still remember doing country dancing at my school fete many years ago! There will be stalls, fun activities to take part in, BBQ, beer tent, tombolas, raffle, beat the goalie and much more. We do hope you will be able to join us.

Cheryl Gadsby - Chairman FOBS

1st Bucklebury Rangers

We are the newly formed Girl Guiding group for girls aged 14-25 years, meeting on Friday evenings every two weeks.

On Sunday 30th June we will be holding a treasure hunt around Upper Bucklebury for families (we advise no pushchairs as you will be walking through woods), to raise money for new equipment for our unit. The trail will start at the Memorial Hall, Broad Lane, between 1.30pm and 2.00pm. It will finish with a raffle, refreshments and a chance to meet members of the Girl Guiding Association. We hope you can join us.

1st Bucklebury Rangers

Friends of Bucklebury School (FOBS)
present....

FOBS Quiz Night Friday 17th May

7.30pm for an 8pm start
in the school hall.

Teams of between 4 and 8 people costing £7 per person including a Jacket potato supper. Please contact the school office on 01635 862965 to order tickets and register your team by 10th May.

Bucklebury Primary School Summer Fete

Saturday 6th July

12.30pm – 3.30pm

Lots of stalls, games to play, raffle, tombola, BBQ, beer tent, face painting and lots more.
Do come along and support the school.

FOBS main fundraising drive is to update and enhance the technology in the school.

Bradfield and District Young Farmers' Club

Are you aged between 10 and 26? Are you looking for something to do on a Wednesday evening? Then Bradfield YFC may just well be for you!!

You don't have to be a farmer to be a Young Farmer but if you enjoy making new friends, taking part in sports and other outdoor activities, crafts, talks, travel, organising events, conservation, and heaps of other activities come and have a go! There are even opportunities to travel and work abroad!

This past month we have had a lambing visit, Easter egg making/decorating and a show classes evening in preparation for the Young Farmers' Rally on Sunday 19th May. What we do is decided by the members with some guidance from club leaders who are all CRB checked and First Aid trained.

We have the start of competitions coming up. We have pre show which consists of stock judging (sheep, pigs, beef, dairy & horses) and fence erecting. We also have a Rally coming up on Sunday 19th May where all members compete in lots of different classes to win points for their club and we have the Berkshire County Fayre on Sunday 26th May at Amners Farm.

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

West Berkshire Ballet School

Here's hoping that by the time you read this, Spring will finally be with us!

We've certainly got a spring in our step as our cast of 131 put the finishing touches to our exciting double bill of Aladdin and Cinderella at Arlington Arts Centre on 1st & 2nd June (01635 244246 for tickets). As I write, we have 6 weeks to go and the excitement is mounting!



Claire's sewing machine has steam coming out of it, and out of the top of her head sometimes too! Dozens of splendid new costumes are appearing for the lucky dancers.

And now to our latest success stories..... many congratulations to Lucie, who was chosen to play Liesl in Newbury Musical Theatre's production of The Sound of Music at the Corn Exchange this April. We were so thrilled to watch Lucie's professional performance, to listen to her very promising voice (Lucie always protests that she cannot sing – well she can!) and to watch her confident stage presence. Sound of Music played to 6 packed houses and should be very proud of their production.

Dominic has got through to the second round of auditions for the prestigious National Youth Ballet company – very best of luck Dom for the 28th April.

Tegan has been awarded a bursary for her place at KS Dance where she will begin her vocational ballet training in September – looks like your dreams are coming true Tegan. Best of luck to you for your Advanced ballet exam in July.

Having successfully auditioned with Creative Kidz, Chloe made her debut on the stage of Sadlers Wells, London, on 1st April. Holly is nearing the completion of her higher teaching qualifications and she seems to be flying through in record time! Holly teaches 45 students on Saturday mornings alone and has quickly become a firm favourite with her classes – all our best wishes Holly for your next 2 exams in June & July.

Jane Scholl, Claire Bowden & Holly Unnuk

www.wbbs.org

1st Bucklebury Brownies



BROWNIE NEWS

Last term we had lots of fun at Brownies...

We had fun knitting and sewing for our Craft badge, celebrating St Patrick's Day by learning to Irish dance with our superstar teacher Josh from the Lord of the Dance show and making gifts for all the mums and grandmothers for Mothers' Day.

SUMMER TERM

We have an exciting summer term planned for the Brownies, including a Climbing Evening at Adventure Dolphin towards our Agility Badge and a movie night including popcorn and all the trimmings!

Being a Brownie is exciting and fun – as well as learning new skills and making new friends, Brownies also take part in supporting and helping the community and the world around them.

We have recently had some Brownies leave us to move on to Guides and as such have places available. 1st Bucklebury Brownies meet every Friday, 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury (adjacent to Bucklebury Memorial Hall). If you would like to find out more information, please contact us on 1stbuckleburybrownies@gmail.com

The Cottage Inn

Firstly Gary & Mandy would like to announce their delight at winning 'West Berkshire Community Pub of the Year 2013' for the second consecutive year.

We would like to take this opportunity to say 'a huge thank you to all of our wonderful customers 'regulars & new' and to all the groups, clubs & societies that have consistently supported us here at The Cottage. We could not have achieved this award again without you all, our sincere thanks to everyone including our amazing chef 'Tom' and our brilliant team of staff, here at The Cottage.

Please support us again this year on our 2nd 'It's a Knockout Charity Fun Day' on Saturday 15th June 2013. We are still looking for volunteers on the day to help run stalls / BBQ etc and to help with the clear up after the event. We are also looking for Tombola prizes, if you are able to donate the smallest item, we would be so grateful. We do have a few pitches free if you would like your own stall. Please contact Gary or Mandy for further details.

Last year was a huge success and we were delighted to have

raised over £4,000 for The Cystic Fibrosis Fund. This year our chosen charity is 'The Newbury Breast Care Fund, raising money for a Faxitron machine at Royal Berks'. We are hoping to raise as much, if not, even more again this year for another worthy cause.

Our day begins at midday and finishes at midnight, we have a fun packed day in store for all the family which includes stalls, games, beer-tent, hog roast, BBQ, live music from local musicians, bouncy castle, children's street party (booking essential) and of course our 'It's a Knockout Event' & lots more

Please join us again for a fun packed day at 'The Cottage Inn'.
Tel: Gary & Mandy 01635 864 544 for further information or visit our website www.thecottageinnupperbucklebury.co.uk

Once again, a HUGE thank you to everyone that has supported The Cottage.

Organisations

Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)



We started off the year with a talk by Jo Firth on her Raku pottery followed in February by Jo Andreae's presentation on what to look for when taking a picture. We saw some of the inspiration and techniques she's used in the past.

In March Dick Greenaway guided us through the history of woods.

April saw the now annual evening meal at the Cottage Inn which was attended by 16 ladies – not bad considering it was the holiday season! Thanks to Gary and Mandy for a lovely evening.

In May we're expecting a visit by the Wine Man from Yattendon (with some free samples hopefully!) and June sees us visiting Sandleford Place in Newbury for a walk around the beautiful gardens there. July will be our last meeting before a summer break and Helen Relf will be giving us a guided tour of the history of Bucklebury ending up at the Cottage Inn.

TLC usually meets on the 2nd Tuesday in the month from 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Oak Room at the Memorial Hall. We aim to keep the programme diverse and the meetings informal (it is not necessary to attend every meeting). It costs £2 per session. Check the website out for further details: <http://www.buckleburyparish.org/tuesday-ladies-club>

We hope you'll join us.

Christie Morris and Wynne Frankum, Co- chairs

Bucklebury History Group

These memories of Harry Copas were previously printed in the Parish Magazine in 1992, and I also have a handwritten copy which was in the WI archives. Hopefully they will be of interest to readers again. More will be published in future editions of The Oaks. Helen Relf: helenrelf@relfsociety.org 01635 867619

Memories of Old Bucklebury – Part One

Harry Copas

I felt honoured when I was asked by the W.I. to write some of my memories of our lovely parish of Bucklebury. So I thought – where can I start; then I came on the idea to start at the school as that is my first remembrance of Bucklebury.

I was seven in 1910 when I first attended the school after we moved from Midgham: a lot of the children came from poor families as their fathers were farm workers on a wage of twelve shillings for a six day week, but there were exceptions, as in my case, where the fathers were craftsmen, even so we were all poor.

Another thing was a lot of the children came from large families ten or twelve not uncommon and I knew one family of seventeen. We had at that time a Lady of the Manor, who was a very kind and generous lady, who at Christmas time would visit the school and inspect the feet of some of the poorer boys and if they were poorly shod she would present them with a new pair of boots: she helped a lot in other ways.

There was also a charity called the 'green coats': a few boys and girls were supplied with a green uniform.

During my time at the school the Great War broke out and our headmaster went to war and we had a number of changes in head teachers. Opposite the school in the farm there used to be a large black dog, a curly coated retriever, I haven't seen one for years – they were much larger than our modern retriever and some of the infants used to ride on its back.

Still talking of farm workers I would like to mention the workers used to receive what was known as Michaelmas money after the harvest, which was in fact payment for the overtime put in during haymaking and harvesting, about £2 or £3 at that time.

Newbury Fair held in October was a hiring fair and the farm workers wishing to change jobs would go to the fair and get hired for another year. They would take their harvest money and either blow it in the many pubs in Newbury or buy enough clothes for the coming year.

One thing we used to enjoy was to go down the road to the foundry in the village, which was a very busy place, employing a lot of men of different trades. We could get four steel tips put on our boots for one shilling and they would make an iron hoop and a skimmer to propel it quite cheaply. I don't think we could play on the roads with a hoop today. There was

always something to be seen at the foundry; sometimes a steam engine would be outside to be repaired and there was on the southwest corner of the foundry building a vertical steam engine, called the coffee pot as it was that shape. (I heard it is now in a museum somewhere up north.) *[note it is in the Ironbridge Museum]*. It was used to implement the water-power which drove the machinery as the Pang used to dry up even in those days. There's a lot of talk and worry about it drying up but I have known it to happen several time in my lifetime.

A good example of the foundry work could be seen at the South entrance to the churchyard; a beautiful cast iron archway and posts. At the time the Hedges family ran the foundry. There are also a number of grave markers also in cast iron in the churchyard.

Another thing that thrilled us boys was to see the threshing tackle pulled by a steam engine pull into the farmyards or to see them chuffing along the roads. The engine would pull three or four different machines including the living van and one of the crew in last, which was the van, had a length of binder twine with one end tied on the driver's arm and if someone coming behind wished to pass (generally horse traffic) he would give a tug on the twine to tell the engine driver to pull in the side to let them pass. I can't see that on our busy road today. These men who did the threshing could tell you which were the most productive farms by the amount of grain they produced. I was told in later years that Hill House Farm was the highest and Field Farm now known as Pang Field Farm was second.

I would like to say a bit about the churches etc, as we in Bucklebury were well catered for spiritually as we had three churches, indeed for a time we had 4 churches and 2 chapels, one Congregational at Turner's Green and a Baptist Chapel in the Slade. On top of that Mr Fowler used to cycle out from Newbury on Saturdays and deliver the War Cry.

One of the Churches became redundant and was demolished 25 or 20 years ago. It was called the iron church as it was clad with galvanised iron. It was also called the Gipsy's Church, where they got baptised and married; it was in the common on the north side of the avenue, where the common joins the edge of Nine Elms Farm. It was very sad to see it go.

At the west end of the avenue on the south side is a piece of grass which they now call The Green, I don't know why as it was always known as The Cricket Pitch in fact cricket has been played on that pitch for over one hundred years.

On the same side of the road a bit further on is the Bladebone Inn, affectionately known as 'The Bone'. The Inn sign is a real blade bone now encased in copper – a good thing it is being preserved for the future. It was dug up somewhere in the Kennet Valley, part of the remains of a prehistoric animal. The only other place I have seen any like this is at Bognor Regis where they have several different sizes in the museum there.

Opposite the Inn is the Chapel Row Post Office, which was once a cowshed; it was converted into a shop and post office for Mrs Johnson in 1929, who had already started a post office

in Chapel Row council houses.

Up past the council houses opposite Bob Wells' house, was a lovely green sward called the race course; it was such a lovely stretch of short grass we used to go there for picnics as the children loved to play on it. Sadly it was all destroyed by the bulldozers in the Second World War, when we had a large unit of vehicle recovery personnel on the common; it was so sad to lose it.

Just a word about the council houses close by - I helped build them in 1921. I believe I am the only one left alive of the gang. The facing bricks were made at Bradfield by 'Summer' Johnson and the machine made bricks came from Colliers in Reading and were delivered by steam engine pulling two trucks – 6,000 was the load.

To be continued:

Bucklebury Friendship Circle

Another year has flown by since I last wrote in The Oaks to our friends and supporters about the annual Coffee Morning. This year it will take place on Wednesday 1st May 2013 at 10:30am at Briff Farm (off Briff Lane), Upper Bucklebury and we will be holding it, as previously, in aid of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Amazingly, last year we managed to raise over £1000 again and our total was even a little up on the previous year and amounted to £1053.73! Thank you all for your very generous and enthusiastic support.

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

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

Judy Fleming – 01635 863814



Picnic on the Green

Part of the **the big lunch** 2013

Sunday 2nd June 12 – 3pm
The Green, Chapel Row
(next to the Bladebone)

*Bring picnics to share – limited bar and
barbecue available, some entertainment*

Bucklebury History Group Information Required

I have been contacted by Doug Marsden who was a cook in the army during WW2. He was sent from Bicester to Bucklebury Common in 1943 in order to set up a cook house for the 72 Vehicle Reserve Depot, which was based there. He remembers being dropped off by the army vehicle and discovering just a barren piece of land – no tents, buildings or people! He went to the Three Crowns Pub (*now The Cottage Inn*) where the landlord, Sid Haines, put him up for the night. The rest of the soldiers arrived the following morning, the tents were erected and Doug started up the cook house. The buildings followed in about 6 months. Doug was stationed there for just over a year before being sent overseas.

He would like to talk to anyone who can remember the camp as it was then so please could you contact me if you can help.

Helen Relf, 01635 867619 helenrelf@relfsociety.org

St. Mary's Bellringers

Another year means another batch of anniversaries that will be celebrated by bells ringing out over all the land. The two main ones this year are the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation on June 2nd, and the as-yet unknown date of the birth of the first child of the Duchess of Cambridge (aka Bucklebury's Kate). The bells of St Mary's, Bucklebury village will certainly ring out to join in these celebrations.

Church bell ringing in the UK is unique in the world. When a church has two or more bells, in the vast majority of places worldwide, these bells are tuned to harmonise with each other and are sounded at random to produce runs and chords. Not so in England. Here, we tune the bells to the notes of a scale and then ring them in sequence down the scale from the highest note to the lowest, trying to make the sequence as evenly spaced as possible. Because the bells are tuned to a scale, the sounding of two or more bells simultaneously would produce a discord - a most definite no-no for bellringers. To make things more 'interesting', there is a two-second lag between setting the bell in motion and it actually sounding. It takes a lot of skill to overcome this lag and produce an evenly-spaced sequence of dings and dongs.

The actual mechanics of ringing a bell are often the subject of much uninformed hilarity - just think of the TV adverts for Mars bars currently airing, depicting monks swinging several feet in the air as they 'ring'. In real life, ringers keep their feet firmly on the ground! Another misconception is that since church bells weigh several hundredweight (ringers are traditionalists and still measure in hundredweights, quarters and pounds), there is a lot of brute force involved. In practice, the bell's own weight does most of the work, enabling ringers ranging from ten-year olds right through to octogenarians to

ring for periods of up to three hours continuously.

Seeing TV programmes about bellringing, the presenters always seem fixated on the actual mechanics of ringing a bell. True, this is a skill that takes time to acquire and the early stages can be amusing to watch, but it's rather like making a programme about a brass band and concentrating on learning to play a trumpet. In fact the analogy can go further: once the basic skill of producing the notes has been mastered, the pupil has to learn how to play with the rest of the band and has to learn the pieces of music that the band will perform. The same with ringing - in fact we call a group of ringers a 'band' - and there are pieces of music, known as 'methods', for the learner and the band as a whole to learn and to perform. These methods vary greatly in complexity: just as a brass band may start with a shaky rendition of 'When the Saints Go Marching in' and progress to the complex pieces that the virtuoso bands like the Black Dyke Mills Band perform, so a bellringing band will start with simple methods like 'Grandsire' and progress to highly complex multi-method compositions.

One big difference between a brass band and a bellringing band is that the bellringing band has to do everything from memory. Having the music to play from is not just discouraged, it is actively forbidden! The bellringing conductor, who is in charge of the ringing and who must guide the band through its complex permutations, must memorise not only the method (like all the other ringers), but also the sequence in which he is to subtly alter that method in order for the piece of ringing to run its course without repetition, hesitation or deviation. Clearly bellringing is not just a physical exercise, but most definitely a mental one too.

If this has aroused your curiosity, come along to St Mary's on a Thursday evening and see what it's all about. There are many villagers who have tried bellringing but given it up for one reason or another - why not give it another whirl!

John Durham
Bucklebury St Mary Tower Captain
Tel 01635 866524

Bucklebury Community Events

Recent Events

Burns Night on Saturday 26th January was a sell out and very successful. A raft of helpers prepared some delicious Scottish fare. Lindsey McNish was our superb compere and Jim Reeves our excellent piper which all added to the atmosphere. A great night was had by all! As usual the dedicated Bucklebury Event staff (and friends) helped preparing and serving the food and setting up and clearing away afterwards.

The next event was a fantastic **Quiz Night** at Woodys, Bucklebury Farm Park on Saturday 9th March. A warm and cosy venue provided a great atmosphere for the legendary Phil

and Karen Laybourne quiz night. We were full to the rafters and all enjoyed some delicious food prepared by the Woody's catering team – a huge thanks to them. Also to Phil and Karen for compiling the excellent quiz which covered many different topics.

Future Events

STOP PRESS! Picnic on the Green

We've just been given kind permission by Willie Hartley-Russell to hold a village picnic on the green at Chapel Row (where the Chapel Row Fayre is held every year). This will be on Sunday 2nd June to coincide with the Big Lunch. It will be weather dependent and it's really about coming together as a community to have a big lunch together. It'll be free entry and we hope to have some entertainment there. Watch out for more details locally!

Bucklebury Festival of Music

Our big summer event takes the form of the first Bucklebury Festival of Music at Bucklebury Farm Park on Saturday 22nd June – we will hopefully be blessed with good weather! We are lucky enough to be able to use the Farm Park's fantastic facilities again this year. The event runs from 12 noon until 10pm and will feature over ten artists with a wide range of styles from soul, to jazz to folk, together with a hog roast, beer tent and all the usual Farm Park entertainment for the children. Tickets will be on sale from the end of April so look out for more details locally and via www.buckleburyfestival.co.uk. There is no limit on tickets. Tractor and trailer rides will again be offered between Upper Bucklebury, Chapel Row and the Farm Park.

Thank you to everyone who came to an event or who supported Bucklebury Events in past!

Christie Morris – Chair

Bucklebury Community Events



Bucklebury & Marlston Horticultural Society

I started committing my thoughts to paper at the beginning of April, and at that time reflecting that after an eighteen month winter we are now in the middle of the coldest spring in recent memory. March had not conformed to traditional folklore. Arriving like a lamb, instead of a lion, and then departing like a polar bear! Polar bears featured strongly in our interesting slide show on Friday 22nd February. The chilly presentation by Peter Gasson, illustrated dramatic bleak landscapes, rare birds, and demonstrated that flowers are exceedingly sparse north of the Arctic Circle. The lasting impression was that bears are less rare than the plants, which struggle to defy the harsh climate. It certainly prepared us for the freezing weather to come, as our own gardens remained reluctant to emerge from their winter slumber. A situation demonstrated when Crissy Clemson from White Tower Nurseries was only able to bring a small selection of recent plant introductions. She encouraged us to try new varieties of more colourful vegetables and had

some interesting plants for sale. However the rush to start sowing seeds and filling those gaps which have appeared in the borders, remain on hold until the promise of a normal spring is fulfilled. Until the threat of persistent hard frosts has passed and the soil has warmed, there is little to be done except a bit of tidying, cleaning and repairing tools and completing winter tasks. Wheeling out the lawnmower and giving a few tugs on the starting rope will at least warm you up and ensure it is ready for action when needed. If the tank has been left full since last fall, starting can be sluggish because petrol deteriorates, it may be necessary to drain it and refill with fresh fuel.

In previous years the comments prior to our Spring Shows have dwelt on the fact that the best of the daffodils have bloomed and gone past their prime, but this year several early shows have been cancelled because of the difficulties in finding anything at all in bloom.

The BBC weather forecasts in late March and early April tantalised us with warmth and sunshine just around the corner, but the red column on my garden thermometer only occasionally rose from the negative values, whilst at the BBC it was always cake tomorrow! Trusting the resilience of our members we persevered with arrangements for our Spring Show. On Monday evening, 8th April, we were rewarded with over fifty entries. A remarkable display of superb blooms held the attention of a stalwart audience. It was a jolly evening in the company of fellow gardeners, a promise of things to come and a chance to exercise the brain cells as members attempted to unravel the answers to the cryptic, cheeky quiz devised by Terry Stares. During May we are running two trips. The first on Saturday 11th, to the Malvern Spring Show, hopefully to repeat the success of the trip we enjoyed about five years ago. Then the following week (18th May) we will set off to the Savill Garden, part of Windsor Great Park. Members will know that we have been trying to arrange this one for the last two years. The gardens should be magnificent by this weekend, with all the plants rushing to make up for lost time. The Valley Gardens and Virginia Waters are both close-by. Coach trips leave Bucklebury at 9.30am and return around 5pm, both are already well supported, and at the time of writing, only a few spaces are available, ring me for availability and details. Regular trippers know that they are good value and not run for profit. Our regular trip to the RHS gardens at Wisley is on Saturday 26th October, hopefully to see some spectacular autumn colour. There is no coach on this outing, just try to make a full car group and assemble at the Memorial Hall for a 9.30 departure. Entry to the Garden is free if we attend as an affiliated club. We are subject to a maximum of 55 tickets, whilst this number has never been exceeded in the past; let me know if you intend to join us. Do not go directly to Wisley, come to the Hall for final briefing.

Finally, the date for our Autumn Social has been set for Saturday 5th October, more details and tickets will be available at our Shows. All our activities and Show information are included in our 2013 light blue schedule. New members are always welcomed by John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy gardening. Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)

KATS (Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society)

This summer KATS (Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society) is presenting another fabulous show at Bucklebury Memorial Hall. Rehearsals are just starting for what promises to be a great evening of entertainment, so be sure to book your seats for "A Variety of Memories".

There will be five performances, running from Wednesday 7th August to Saturday 10 August at 7.30 and 2.30pm on Saturday. The show will feature comedy, songs and dances, ranging from musical theatre, to massive chart hits from the decades, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and today. Complete with comedy sketches, magic and mayhem, every act has been chosen for its special memories. This years show will be full of variety so don't miss out.

Tickets are priced at £10.00 per person (no concessions) to include a BBQ supper. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the night.

Tickets can be purchased from The Family Bookshop, Thatcham 01635 871777 or from Craig.Robinson@kats.org.uk

Halls

The Victory Room

Hire the Victory Room for your Party or Event.

The Victory Room is the perfect venue for up to 85 people. The hall has everything you'll need – tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and table cloths – plus a stage. All the furniture is also available for local hire. The Victory Room is located right next to the village recreation ground with plenty of room in the car park, which has recently been extended. It is ideal for church events being so close to St Mary's.



For information on the availability of the hall and hiring charges, please contact Lindy Clarke on 01189712768, or by email at lindy.clarke@live.co.uk. The parish website also carries information about the Victory room.

Victory Room Redevelopment Project

A big thank you to all those who filled in the questionnaire in the last issue of the Oaks. The trustees now have a clear picture of what the residents of the parish expect from this facility in the future. Currently we await the structural survey report which will inform our deliberations to extend or rebuild. In either case the trustees will have a big challenge in finding grantholders who feel able to support this project by significant

financial input.

John Clarke 0118 9712768

john.clarke@live.co.uk

Chair of the Trustees of The Victory Room

Bucklebury Beerfest Saturday 5th October 2013

Planning has started for the FIFTH YES the FIFTH annual Bucklebury Beerfest. This year it is a joint effort between the Bucklebury Events Committee and the Victory Room trustees. As in previous years it will be a fun, FREE event for the whole family with many varieties of beer [and wine as well] different bands providing great live music in an even bigger marquee, a selection of games and activities for children, many trade stands and delicious food throughout the day. More details will follow in the next Oaks edition and we would welcome your ideas on how the event could be even better.

Please contact any of the committee members shown below if you have ideas to share, would like to have a trade stand, sponsor a barrel of beer or the marquee, or simply help out on the day.

We need lots of support from you to make this wonderful event continue to grow, and it is great to take part. Here are some ideas to consider;

- Sponsor a barrel for only £100. Your name will be prominently displayed on the sponsors' wall behind the bar and listed in the Bucklebury Beerfest programme [free to all those visiting the show].
- Sponsor the big marquee and get your business name in full view.
- Donate a raffle prize. This has proved to be a very popular way to support the event.
- Volunteer to help on the day. Come along and help for an hour or two with one of the many activities planned.

Committee members to contact are:

Anne Ryder	01635 867186
Christie Morris	01635 867188
John Clarke	0118 971268
Julie Brims	0118 9713308

What's the Beerfest in Aid of?

The Victory Room is a registered charity and is managed by a committee of volunteer trustees. Hiring out the hall for private parties, classes, meetings, Scouts and Cubs, and the local football teams brings in money to contribute to running and maintenance costs. However the hiring fees don't cover all these costs so events like the beerfest are organized to raise funds to ensure the hall is maintained for everyone's benefit.

Sports

Bucklebury Cricket Club

Come and play Cricket for Bucklebury CC.

Whether you are a seasoned player, someone who is new to the game, or someone who played long ago then you will enjoy joining the Bucklebury Badgers. Play regularly or just the occasional game on Sunday afternoons and now also on Wednesday evenings.

We play on the refurbished pitch at Yattendon. Here we have a 10 track grass wicket that has been prepared by the groundsman from Bradfield.

We have matches between April and September, all on Sunday afternoons (normally starting at 2pm) and some games on Wednesday evenings (6pm). All are 'friendlies' against other local village teams (although some matches are more keenly fought friendlies than others).

For more information contact:

- Piers Allison on [0118 971 2596](tel:01189712596)
- <http://bucklebury.play-cricket.com>
- Google "Bucklebury CC"
- Follows us on Twitter @BuckleburyCC

Bucklebury Badminton Club

The Badminton club membership is thriving and the teams have enjoyed some successes in leagues and tournaments too. Most notably top Bucklebury pair Cara Brims and Colin Shurey won the Robin Deasley Newbury and District mixed badminton tournament in November and 17 year old Cara came a close second with her Bucklebury partner in the level doubles tournament earlier this year. The Blackford Cup team fought through to the final but finished as runners up. It was particularly pleasing to have included many new younger members in the men's B team and all matches have been played with determination and enthusiasm.



The Blackford Cup team at the Final.

New members and visitors are always welcome and we are hoping to put out a ladies' team in September. We play at Elstree School in Woolhampton on Tuesday evenings from 8p.m. to 10p.m. You can just turn up or you can find more details on our website.

VENUE: Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

DAY: Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m. September to July

CONTACT: Margaret Neville 01635 873811

<http://buckleburybadminton.intheteam.com>

Bucklebury Tennis Club

Let's see the Olympic legacy starting to kick in!

At last, weather to really make you feel like a game of tennis!

The Club is now back to our summer schedules again, with Mix-ins on Tuesday and Friday evenings, Monday and Saturday mornings, and League matches about to start mid May. Once again we have increased the number of teams entered into the league so with a schedule of social events and hopes of court improvements, it promises to be a busy year.

Newbury & District Summer: Leagues

The summer league sees the return to a full spectrum of matches and Bucklebury has entered into all categories. We have; one Mixed team, three Men's team and two Ladies teams. Matches are scheduled throughout May – July on weekdays starting at 6.30 p.m. This number of teams certainly will need a larger pool of players to ensure we have a full complement every time. If you are willing to join in on the odd occasion please let someone on the Committee/Team Captain know of your interest.

Summer Team Captains: Men's A: Andrew Rodgers; Men's B: Paul Munton; Men's C: Jim London; Ladies A: Trish Strang; Ladies B: Pam Norman; Mixed: Darren Blackwood.

Vets. Matches

With two teams involved we were bound to do better than last year, and we have; the A team hasn't lost a match throughout the winter and is ready to do battle in the final knockout stages. They will be challenged by our B Team who have done well to get to the knockout stages.

Club Development project

Due to the demand for more courts and the impossibility of expanding from two courts to three, Club Members recently gave their support to progress the idea of adding floodlighting to our present courts. A special task force has been reviewing the options and has recommended a suitable design. Tenders for the work have been received and a planning application is in progress. The Club has funds that will cover half the costs involved so the Committee is actively researching possible donors/grants for the balance. Our application to Greenham Common Trust is on the website www.findmeagrants.org

Junior Coaching

Our coaching programme has just got under way with an Under 10's group and a Teens group (13 –15 year olds). Sadly it was planned to start earlier but the weather interfered. There

are still opportunities to join the sessions as we intend them to continue into the first half of the winter term. The session for the Under 10's group is at 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Monday afternoons and the session for the Teens is on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This programme is open to all children whether they are members of the Club or not. The charges are £4 per hour for Club members and £4.50 per hour for non-members. Booking and payment will be in advance for a minimum of 8 sessions. Contact tennis@stedding.co.uk

Club Membership

If you would like to join the Club, or if any of the above is of interest to you and you would like to know more, please contact: Mike James (01189712285) or m-a-james@tiscali.co.uk

Country Life

Walk: Bucklebury Village to Bushnells Green Gate

This is a fairly flat walk with just three stiles and two pinch gates. It is lovely in the summer with the cornflowers in bloom but can get a little overgrown on the paths across the fields.

From the Victory Room Car Park cross the road into the Churchyard. Walk in front of the Church and follow path to the eastern gate, turning left onto the road. Keep on this road following the sign to Chapel Row. Take the footpath on the left opposite the Old School.

Cross the field and at the first signs go straight on. Cross the bridge and turn right, keeping the hedge on your right and the field on your left. Turn left at the next junction. At the end of the field cross the stile and turn left on to the road (*Bushnell's Green Gate was along this road as the boundary with Stanford Dingley is just past the bend*). Go past the house called Skilcroft on the right and before the 30mph sign go through the gate on the left and take the right hand footpath, keeping the hedge on the left.

You then reach the River Pang. Go through a pinch gate (*Fat Man's Misery!*) and over the bridge. Straight on with the field on the right and the hedge on the left. At the end bear right through a gateway and turn left over a double stile (*sign posted Recreation Route*). The fence and River Pang are now on the left as is the parish boundary. Keep on the Recreation Route – ignore the bridge over the Pang, bearing right up to the road. Turn left at the road opposite Rushden's Farm (*here you leave the boundary and head back into Bucklebury Parish*). Bear left at the junction and follow the road to the village.

You can either take the footpath over the field towards the church or keep to the road past the Old Foundry back to the Car Park.

Helen Relf, 01635 867619 helenrelf@relfsociety.org

BUCKLEBURY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Saturday, 22nd June 2013

12 noon – 10pm

Bucklebury Farm Park, Bucklebury Village, Berkshire, RG7 6RR

www.buckleburyfestival.co.uk

On Stage

**Bradfield College Jazz Band • Pete Allen
Kennet School Bands • Tom Michelle Blues Band
Richard Navarro • Megan Henwood
Brass Volcanoes**

Free Parking

**Bring a picnic, or enjoy Graham's Hog Roast, Farm Park catering,
Woody's, Beer tent/Pimms • Face painting for children
Traditional Sweets Wagon • All of the Farm Park activities and animals
Free tractor ride transport**

Advanced tickets:
Family (2 adults, 2 children under 16) £25
Children under 16 £5
Adults £12.50

At the Gate:
Family (2 adults, 2 children under 16) £30
Children under 16 £5
Adults £15

Tickets available from:
Via the web site - www.buckleburyfestival.co.uk
Peach's Stores, Upper Bucklebury - Bucklebury Farm Park - Bladebone Pub, Chapel Row

Bucklebury Heathland

Parts of the Lower Common has looked more like Bucklebury Water Park, 6ins of rain in December and 8ins so far this year have left large areas with permanent large puddles, but it will soon dry out, so we should have good heather this summer.

We have lost some work days due to bad weather, but the Volunteers have more than made up for it, clearing several acres of small scots pine. There is a small triangle that has been cleared at least five times of pine, but still the blighters come back!

A contractor has carried out four acres of “mulching” of old heather and small scots pine, so the battle is slowly being won against silver birch and scots pine.

On the Upper Common gorse at the north end has become very invasive, that again has been mulched and we hope to “weed wipe” in August

The wood larks are back singing in their territories, and we hope next month the night jars will be back.

Tim Culley

West Berkshire Countryside Society

The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 4pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

For further information please see the website -

www.westberkscountryside.org.uk.

May

Tuesday 7th 10.00 am Basildon School, Upper Basildon SU595 765

Removing invasive hawthorn from willow maze.

Sunday 12th 2.00pm Castle, Grey Suits & Washing machine. SU 462 691

Join Dick Greenaway for 2.3 mile afternoon stroll. Park at Donnington Castle. In partnership with RENEWAL

Tuesday 14th 10.00 am Garden Cottage, Streatley, SU 593 812

Water meadow management. Join us as we continue vital maintenance of this important Thames water meadow. Meet at the recreation ground car park at the top of Cleeve Court Road.

Thursday 16th 7.30pm Annual General Meeting. St Nicolas Church Hall, Newbury Talk at 8pm by Richard Benyon 'Are we facing a Wildlife Crisis?'

Entry to the AGM and Talk is strictly by pre-booked ticket only via bookings@westberkscountryside.org.uk Stewards needed.

Tuesday 21st 10am Mapleash Copse. Woodland Workshop. To be lead by Charles Flower looking at the management of wild flowers in woodland.

Park at Bussock Hill House stable yard.SU4624 7182.

Tuesday 21st 10.00 am Sheepdrove Organic Farm, nr Lambourn, SU 358 818

Help the Sheepdrove Rangers remove tree guards and stakes in the new plantation. Do not use Sat Nav for this site!!! Park at the Eco Centre Car Park. Lunch generously provided by Sheepdrove. Please notify fhayward@btinternet.com by 17th May if you are planning to attend.

Tuesday 28th 10.00 am Winterbourne Woods. SU 451 719

Bracken cutting on the ridge, clearing track to the pond, maintaining tree halos and maintaining new access track to the

Alder grove. Park in the lay by in front of Winterbourne Church on the road to Boxford.

June

Tuesday 4th 10.00 am. King's Copse, Bradfield Southend, SU 579 706

Bracken clearing and Himalayan Balsam pulling. Park in front of the cottage and not the house.

Thursday 6th 0900-1800 Visit by coach to St Fagans Folk Museum, Cardiff

Join Dick & Jill Greenaway to look at the best Folk Museum in the UK. Find out how people lived in lowland Britain from 100BC to 1950 Only 32 places at £16 each. Booking essential via booking@westberkscountryside.org.uk . You get 10% off meals and shop purchases - what a deal!

Tuesday 11th 10.00 am Paices Wood Country Parkland. SU 586 634

Maintaining woodland rides. Please park in the top car park accessed via the new entrance road. Do not use the route through Young's Industrial Estate.

Wed 12th 6pm. Visit to Bucklebury Farm Park.

Meet at the Farm Park SU553 702 : This is a Rural Business Visit. Booking via bookings@westberkscountryside.org.uk

Limited to 30. Members only. Sadly no children or dogs.

A charge of £10 per person will be made to cover entry and a reception.

Sunday 16th 2.00pm The Woods of Hampstead Norreys

A 2.5 mile afternoon stroll with Dick Greenaway Park at the Village Hall SU527 762

Tuesday 18th 10.00 am Leyfield Meadow. SU 5768 7511

Meadow management. Cutting bracken and thistles invading this flower rich grassland. Meet at The Cottage, Ashampstead Common.

Tuesday 25th 10.00 am Garden Cottage, Streatley, SU 593 812

Join us as we continue to maintain this important Thames water meadow. Meet in the recreation park car park at the top of Cleeve Court Road.

July

Tuesday 2nd 6.30pm A visit to the Chilton Estate, Hungerford.

A two hour tour on foot and by tractor and trailer with a short reception at the end. Members only. Booking essential via booking@westberkscountryside.org.uk. The Estate requires the name and address of each person attending in advance. Meet at New Hayward Farm SU 342 709

Parish Diary Dates

May

2nd	Walkers	10.00am	Bucklebury Farm Park.
11th	Horticultural Society	9.30am	Trip to the Malvern Show.
18th	Horticultural Society	9.30am	Trip to Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park.
14th	TLC—The Wine Man	7.45pm	The Oak Room, Upper Bucklebury.
16th	WBCS AGM	7.30pm	St. Nicholas Church, Newbury.
17th	Annual Parish Assembly	8.00pm	Bucklebury Memorial Hall.
17th	FOBS Quiz Night		Bucklebury CofE Primary School.

June

2nd	Picnic on the Green	12.00pm—3.00pm	The Green, Chapel Row.
6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
11th	TLC—Visit to Sandleford Gardens	6.30pm	Memorial Hall Car Park.
15th	It's a Knockout	12.00pm—12.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
22nd	Bucklebury Festival of Music	12.00pm—10.00pm	Bucklebury Farm Park.
30th	1st Bucklebury Rangers	1.00 / 2.00pm	Family Treasure hunt from The Memorial Hall.

July

4th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Bladebone Inn, Chapel Row.
6th	FOBS Summer Fete	12.30pm—3.30pm	Bucklebury CofE Primary School.
9th	TLC	7.45pm	Guided walk of the History of Bucklebury.
13th	Horticultural Society	2.00pm—4.00pm	Summer Show, Memorial Hall.

August

1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
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September

5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am	Victory Room Car Park, Bucklebury Village.
14th	Horticultural Society	2.00pm—4.00pm	Autumn Show, Memorial Hall.

October

5th	Bucklebury Beerfest		The Recreation Ground, Bucklebury.
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Contributions

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

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

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

Wynne Frankum

Published in January, April and September

By Bucklebury Parish Council.

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