

# The Oaks



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## Bucklebury Parish Chairman's Letter

In February we celebrated the life of Gill Brooke. She was a remarkable and much loved lady involved during her long life in the parish in so many facets of Bucklebury life, including an active member of the church, a school governor, and the first female parish councillor. We have had a record four female parish councillors for a while and seven men, but in May this will drop to three, so if you think you could bump up the numbers, please apply to the clerk. There is a vacancy!

BPC have been asked if more dog bins could be provided round the parish. They cost £50 a year each to empty and the siting of them can be a problem, so sadly this is not an option. Of course dog bags can be put in ordinary bins. The worst scenario is to pick up the dog faeces, put them in a bag and then leave them either on bushes or the ground where they do not decompose. Very anti-social! Fortunately most people behave responsibly and we are lucky that we do not have a big problem with dogs fouling areas.

We are fortunate to keep the post office at All Saints Church, which is open every Monday morning. Please use it and try not to take pre-paid parcels there since these don't count towards sales.

Work continues on the Meadows. The ecological survey will be revised shortly and work laid down in the management plan, carried out. The first being a tree survey which will also cover all the areas owned by the parish, the Meadows, Hockett Field, Cemetery, Play Park and BMX track.

Local residents have again raised concerns about speeding in various parts of the parish... This is a perennial and difficult problem which is common to all villages in West Berkshire and unfortunately resources are always scarce. BPC have recently discussed it again - please read Lindy Clarke's article about a possible way forward in this edition and get involved if you can.

We look forward to The Best of Bucklebury Weekend on June 22/23<sup>rd</sup>, an event organised by the Bucklebury Events Committee to celebrate the diverse activities in the parish.

A glorious spring day on April 13<sup>th</sup> brought 45 parishioners out to support the Common Clearing and Parish Litter Pick. We had three trailers going round picking

## Bucklebury Parish Annual Assembly

7.45pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The Victory Room,  
Bucklebury

\*\*\*\*\*

**Guest speaker: Jon Winstanley**  
(Head of Transport & Countryside at WBC)

\*\*\*\*\*

This is **your** opportunity to raise any issues you have with roads, public rights of way and much more.

\*\*\*\*\*

Come and find out what has been going on in the parish; meet your new Parish Councillors and have your say about our local area!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Refreshments will be provided**

Parish Council Chairman  
Wynne Frankum

Parish Council Clerk  
Helen Pratt

The Oaks Editorial Team  
Editor: Wynne Frankum  
Copy Editor: Lindy Clarke  
Typography: Helen Pratt  
Proofing: Christine Ewing

up the sacks left by the sides of the roads and the larger rubbish too heavy to carry back. The excellent bakers on the parish council produced a delicious and plentiful array of cakes and as usual there was plenty of catching up to be done over mugs of tea. Thank you to everybody who took part. We look forward to seeing you again on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.

We hope you enjoy the summer, may it be neither too hot nor too wet. Time will tell.

**Wynne Frankum Retiring Chair. BPC**

### **Wynne Frankum Retiring Chair of the Parish Council**

Wynne was first elected to Bucklebury Parish Council(BPC) in 1995 and has been a dedicated Chair of the Council for the past 12 years. Wynne has immersed herself in the life of the Bucklebury community. Whether protecting the Bucklebury Meadows or Hockett Field, challenging Thames Water over supply difficulties or being an active member and now Chair of the Events Committee, she has always had the best interests of the parishioners foremost in her mind. As Chair of the Council she has had a strong social conscience and been committed to maintaining our parish's heritage. She was one of the authors who produced 'Bucklebury in Focus', photographs of the parish through the ages, for the Millennium.

Over the past 24 years she has served Bucklebury admirably devoting much of her free time to BPC matters. She has been a good listener always willing to take up people's concerns and do her level best to resolve them.

We will miss Wynne's quiet, sympathetic yet highly effective leadership of the Council and wish her a contented and healthy 'second retirement' with more time for family and friends.

**Barry Dickens—Vice Chair On behalf of the BPC**

## **Parish Council Matters Arising**

### **Bucklebury Cemetery**

We have been pleased to have various visitors' remark on the well-kept cemetery. We hope you agree, acknowledging that you can't please all the people all the time.



The Burial Board have cleared one overgrown row of graves in the old part of the cemetery and burnt the huge pile of material.

The wooded area has been cleared and more work will be done. In the autumn it will be levelled further and grass seed sown. In future it will be strimmed once a year.

A seat should be installed shortly in the 1970's section.

#### **Wynne Frankum. Chair Burial Board**



Bonfire in the Cemetery.

## Speeding in the Parish

It is true to say that speeding is a problem in virtually every rural village in West Berkshire, and elsewhere. It is also true that there are no easy answers and not all the various potential answers are practical in our situation. Our roads are becoming increasingly busy and people's lives more rushed, and whatever solutions we find will only ever manage the problem. No solution will ever completely eliminate speeding and will not stop those determined to go too fast.

However there are positive things that can be done. There are a variety of traditional methods that can be employed, such as temporary posters, pinch points, Vehicle Activated Signs, speed limits, rumble strips. West Berks Council have measuring devices such as Speed Data recorders, and Speed Indicator devices which can be deployed to discover the true nature of the problem. WBC can run a Community Speed watch scheme if conditions are right. Police speed vans help but of course can only be used on an intermittent basis. BPC are liaising with WBC to update the result of previous speed surveys in the parish, and the data from the measurement activities will be used to determine where to focus any speed awareness campaigns, and/or traffic calming measures.

There are also other more subtle tools which have been successfully used elsewhere in rural parishes. Examples are gateways to villages, sidelines to make roads appear narrower, textured edges to roads, taking away the central white line, tree build outs and planting to create a sense of place. All options are currently being considered though sight lines, road positioning and lack of street lighting mean that not all solutions are usable in all locations.

In order to give this subject the time it deserves and requires, the parish council are setting up a working group to look into the various possibilities available. There are no promises that a solution can be found, but there will have been a thorough review of the available options.

**What can you do to get involved or have your views heard?**

**Come to the Parish Assembly** in the Victory Room on Friday May 10th at 7.45 pm when John Winstanley, the new Head of Highways at West Berks Council, will be speaking, and will hopefully offer some insights about speeding. Please contact Lindy Clarke, Tim Banks or Tim Slatford if you would like to be involved in further discussion and perhaps have time to participate in any measures decided upon.

Lindy Clarke: [lindy.clarke@live.co.uk](mailto:lindy.clarke@live.co.uk).

Tim Banks: [timjbanks@gmail.com](mailto:timjbanks@gmail.com).

Tim Slatford: [timslatford@hotmail.com](mailto:timslatford@hotmail.com)

## The Fred Dawson Memorial Playpark and the bike track

The smart new fencing at the playpark was completed in March by local firm Fox Fencing, based in Bradfield South End, and remedial work on the safety surface has been done. The park has recently passed its annual inspection by ROSPA with flying colours and is ready for summer and we hope it continues to be well used by local families

Please remember to encourage your children to put litter in the bins, or to take larger items home, otherwise volunteers have to give up time to do this.

The bike track was resurfaced in March and will be regularly maintained to keep the surface in good condition. It has also passed the ROSPA inspection with flying colours.

The track is very well used by a wide variety of ages and abilities and it is wonderful to see our youngest children learning to use the track on scooters and trikes in the mornings and early afternoons then the teenagers showing their skills in the later afternoons and evenings.



The resurfaced bike track.

Please ensure younger children, and remind your teenagers to wear appropriate safety helmets and to cycle with covered arms and legs to limit damage if they come off. And please take your larger litter home. The slope behind the shelter is very difficult for older volunteers to get down and up again safely to collect litter!

**Anne Hillerton**

## Planning

Applications are normally determined by Planning Officers, however there have been a number of applications recently which have been considered by the Eastern Area Planning Committee. This happens if there are ten or more letters of objection and the planning officer is of a mind to approve the application. If there is sufficient concern District Councillors can also call an application before the committee. However, if the Eastern Area Planning Committee makes a decision which could be seen as an exception to Planning Policy, the application may need to be considered by the District Planning Committee; this has happened in the case of Bushnells Green Farm. The support for this application, and the business case enabled it to be approved as an exception to policy.

Reference	Description	BPC Status	WBC Status
18/01470/FULD	<u>Bushnells Green Farmhouse.</u> Retention of existing timber lodge as farm worker accommodation. Supported by new and additional evidence. Non compliance with condition 12 of approved 13/03014/FUL.	Support.	Approved by District Planning Committee.
18/01809/FULD	<u>82-83 Roundfield.</u> Proposed alterations and single storey rear extension to existing pair of semi-detached houses, and development of one attached house, a pair of semi-detached bungalows and one detached bungalow, with access and landscaping.	No Objection	Refused by WBC and on appeal.
18/01948/FULD	<u>Site of former Abbey View, Paradise Lane.</u> Proposed new 4 bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity.	Object	Refused Taken to Appeal.
18/02838/HOUSE	<u>Gable House, Briff Lane.</u> First floor addition for a flat accommodation for groom/dependent relative over existing garage block.	No Objection	Refused by WBC and on appeal.
18/02947/FULD	<u>82-83 Roundfield.</u> Proposed new detached bungalow following demolition and erection or modification and refurbishment of the existing pair of 3 bed semi detached houses to form a pair of 2 bed semi detached houses, including access and landscaping.	Support	Approved
18/03021/HOUSE	<u>Ramsbury House, The Ridge (Adjacent Parish).</u> Single storey breakfast room extension.	No Objection	Approved
18/03238/HOUSE	<u>Avalon, Bucklebury</u> Demolition of outbuildings and construction of replacement garage / carport / workshop / garden store.	Object	Approved
18/03252/HOUSE	<u>Hilliers, The Avenue.</u> Ground level swimming pool with automatic safety cover surrounded by natural stone paving. Plant room to be housed in 1.83 x 2.2m shed. Pool to be heated by outdoor air source heat pump located behind plant room.	No Objection	Approved
18/03253/HOUSE	<u>Wayside, Hatch Lane.</u> Section 73A: Variation of Condition 3 – Materials, of planning permission reference 17/03252/HOUSE (Single storey front extension, dormer roof alterations and first floor extension).	No Objection	Approved
18/03259/HOUSE	<u>3 Mortons Lane.</u> Proposed rear conservatory.	No Objection	Approved

18/03342/HOUSE	<u>The Highlands.</u> Single storey rear extension.	No Objection	Approved
18/03279/HOUSE	<u>Rose Bank, Marlston.</u> Erection of a greenhouse (part retrospective).	No Objection	Approved
19/00023/LBC2	<u>Pear Tree Cottage, Byles Green.</u> Install a woodburner.	No Objection	Approved
18/03326/HOUSE	<u>Heathgate, The Avenue.</u> Erection of replacement detached garage following demolition of existing garage.	No Objection	Approved
19/00033/HOUSE	<u>Eliezer Cottage, Zin Zan</u> Garage/Garden store	No Objection	Approved
19/00051/HOUSE	<u>The Cottage, Chapel Row.</u> One and one half storey extension.	No Objection	Approved
19/00242/FULD	<u>69 Roundfield.</u> Proposed conversion of existing garage, new side dormer and 2 no. velux windows, new bi-fold doors to rear and internal alterations.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/00267/HOUSE	<u>Woodlands, Hatch Lane.</u> Part conversion of existing garage, new side dormer and 2 no. velux windows, new bi-fold doors to rear and internal alterations.	No Objection	Approved
19/00237/HOUSE	<u>69 Roundfield.</u> Proposed part single-storey, part two-storey rear extension	No Objection	Approved
19/00437/HOUSE	<u>Pebbly Croft, Chapel Row.</u> Single and two storey extensions.	No Objection	Approved
19/00447/HOUSE	<u>Heathgate, The Avenue.</u> Installation of swimming pool and erection of associated pool house.	No Objection	Approved
19/00474/FULD	<u>Site of Former Abbey View, Paradise Lane.</u> Proposed new 4 bedroom detached dwelling with associated parking and amenity.	Object	Refused
19/00221/FULD	<u>Glenvale Nurseries, Hungerford Lane (Adjacent Parish).</u> Demolition of Glenvale Garden Centre and replace with 1 dwelling, retaining the existing entrance onto Hungerford Lane.	Support	Refused by Eastern Area Planning Committee.
19/00462/HOUSE	<u>Pastorale, Windmill Lane.</u> Conversion of existing garage into habitable accommodation, two storey and single storey extension, porch, bay windows and erection of detached carport and store.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/00665/HOUSE	<u>Littlebourne (formerly Avalon), Bucklebury.</u> Revised location and minor alterations for garage/outbuilding.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/00450/HOUSE	<u>Manor View, Hopgoods Green.</u> Replacement of timber framed garage and store.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/00572/HOUSE & 19/00573/LBC2	<u>Vanners.</u> Swimming pool and pool house – Relocation of previously approved.	No Objection	Awaiting decision
19/00824/HOUSE	<u>Upwey, Burdens Heath.</u> Demolition of existing garage, stores and lobby, construction of replacement garages and open plan kitchen with additional first floor bedrooms.	No Objection	Awaiting decision



## Thames Water Priority Service



Thames Water offer a **free Priority Service to customers who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.** By registering for this service Thames Water aim to provide free support in the unlikely event you have no water, prioritising the most vulnerable first.

Thames Water can tailor their services to meet your needs, from using your preferred means of communication to delivering water to your door, giving you peace of mind at a time when you need it most.

Thames Water work with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks to help customers register for priority services once and benefit from support during both power cuts and water supply interruptions. Amongst the eligibility criteria are poor mobility, sight or hearing loss, dialysing at home, speech or hearing difficulties, mental health issues.

To ask for leaflets or to request a speaker to visit your local groups, email [tania.christie@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:tania.christie@thameswater.co.uk).  
**We look forward to hearing from you.**

For more information, email [ecs@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:ecs@thameswater.co.uk), call the Extra care Team on 0800 0093652 option 3, or visit [www.thameswater.co.uk/priorityservices](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/priorityservices).  
Financial support is available as well: search 'help paying your bill' on the Thames Water website.

## The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS)

There are various parts of Bucklebury which have vacancies for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators. Current vacancies are in Bucklebury Village, Hatch Close, Hatch Lane (Central), Hatch Lane (Chapel Row), The Avenue (east end, south side) and Mortons Lane.

The scheme is an important way of combating crime and making the community a safer place to live. A coordinator will receive free signs, and stickers plus details of discounts available to all members in the scheme - currently Jewsons, A-Plan, Co-op and Newbury Locks. Once a coordinator is registered on the Police/ Neighbourhood Watch database, they will receive emails giving information on crimes, scams etc to pass on to their neighbours and with email it is so easy now to forward on, provided you have permission to do so.

Setting up a NWS makes people aware they should report anything suspicious and watch their security plus they find out what crimes are happening in their vicinity. NWS has proved to be an effective method of reducing crimes such as criminal damage, burglaries, theft from motor vehicles and antisocial behaviour. It is a good way to get to know your neighbours, you can help one another, especially the elderly, by removing mail, putting lights on and pulling curtains when neighbours are away.

NW was awarded the prestigious Queens Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award in recognition of their work as one of the largest voluntary movements across England and Wales. If anyone is interested in finding out more about setting up a scheme, please phone Angela Money on 01635 40866 or email [ajmy5m7@gmail.com](mailto:ajmy5m7@gmail.com).

## Energy Switch

**See if you can pay less for your energy bills by signing up to the West Berkshire Energy Switch**

The West Berkshire Energy Switch is a free to join scheme which gives residents the chance to see if they can make savings on their fuel bills.

Since 2016, over 560 households have switched supplier through the scheme, saving over £130,800 between them. The recent February auction saw switchers saving an average of £210 on their annual bill.

A one day reverse auction will be held in May; with suppliers competing with their best offers, and the winning supplier/s then sending registrants their personalised offer for consideration. Auctions are held each year in February, May and October.

There is no obligation to switch. Sign up and see if you can save; to register or find out more, visit [www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch)

You will need to have your latest energy bill to hand, as you'll need the details during the registration process.

**Registration and acceptance is open until 2<sup>nd</sup> July, and offers will begin to go out from 3<sup>rd</sup> June.**

**West Berkshire residents without internet access should contact West Berkshire Council on 01635 503267 by 21<sup>st</sup> June to register. Remember to have your energy bill or annual statement to hand when you call.**

**Can you get a better energy deal?**

**Join the West Berkshire Energy Switch**

Sign up or find out more:  
[www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/communityswitch)

big  
community  
switch

## West Berks District Councillors

### WBC Councillors' Report

When this report is read I will, hopefully, be confirmed as your District Councillor for the next four years. I am sure you are all now aware of the changes to the District wards so Bucklebury, Stanford Dingley, Midgham and Woolhampton are all represented by one councillor. Quentin Webb, who is not standing in this years' election, has represented our parish with me for the last sixteen years and I am sure we all thank him for his work and wish him well in his "retirement".

The last four years have been challenging, the government grant that has been paid to all Councils has now been phased out for West Berkshire so all money raised for services is paid for by council tax payers and business rates. Some specific grants are still available and we have been successful in bidding for money from the national "pothole fund" and have a sizeable grant to assist us in developing our next Local Plan which will determine where we need to build the next tranche of housing in our District... The pressure to provide enough housing, particularly "affordable housing" continues but we are in a good position in our district having a substantial housing supply well in excess of the five years planned supply that is required.

We are always looking for innovative ways of raising money for local organisations and so we have just launched our Local Lottery. If you wish to support a local fund raising activity (or would like to join if you need to raise funds!) then visit [westberkshirelottery.co.uk](http://westberkshirelottery.co.uk) where you can find details. 60% of all money raised goes to local good causes and tickets only cost £1 with a chance of winning £25,000!

There is another article in this edition of The Oaks about the speed of traffic through our communities so I won't repeat what is written there except to say that I will support any initiative that helps reduce the speeding on our roads. I am certain that residents of Bucklebury are responsible people but we do need an education campaign to make some aware of the antisocial aspects of exceeding the speed limits. I will have attended seven parish assemblies in the last couple of months and, without exception, speeding traffic is a big issue in all of them!

As always please contact me if you have any issues you wish to raise about the Council or the services it provides.

**District Cllr. Graham Pask.**

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

Graham Pask Tel: 01635 864023

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

**Thursday 16th May - in aid of  
Berkshire Women's Aid  
Plant sale, Coffee & Cake, & some cakes for  
sale!**



**at: the Rookery, Bucklebury Village, RG7 6EF**

**from: 10.00am to 12.00.**

<http://www.berkshirerewomensaid.org.uk/>

## Family

### Bucklebury Guides



Our creative and energetic unit continues to thrive. We have welcomed quite a few new members this term (you don't have to have been to Brownies to join us)

Girlguiding have devised a new programme for us all to follow so we have begun working on some of the new aspects. It is a very thorough programme with lots of activities to complete in unit meeting times but they have been good fun so we are enjoying trying out the new ideas. Some activities are for us to do altogether as a unit while others are chosen and led by patrols. The girls also need to complete an interest badge at home for each theme. Once everything is complete then the girls will earn a theme badge; 6 theme badges and a challenge award will result in a Gold Guide Badge before they leave!

In February we complete our Cystic Fibrosis Challenge Badge by holding a fundraising cake sale as part of World Thinking Day. This is a special day for Girlguiding where we get together as a District and think about all of the Guides around the world - this year our celebrations had a science theme and the girls took part in a wide range of activities from Sun watching with the Newbury Astrological Society to building an egg roller coaster and testing their reaction times.

We also found time last term for a session with Pangbourne Guides making mother's day gifts and playing games as well as inviting Bradfield and Pangbourne Brownies to take part in an Easter egg hunt with us in Bucklebury. It is lovely when the weather improves enough for us to use the large field and park.

This term we will be continuing to work on the new programme themes as well as getting out and about in the (hopefully) good weather. We will use the campfire at Thirtover, do a "toss a coin" walk and some outdoor painting. We are also hoping to get to Pangbourne to do

some kayaking...

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our Leader in training at the end of this term as she is moving north to start a career in teaching. We will miss her extensive guiding knowledge and enthusiasm but wish her well as she starts a new chapter. The search for her replacement has begun with some kind offers from local guiders. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to join us in helping to run this popular and busy unit. Adult helpers may not get paid, but we certainly do have a lot of fun.

We hold our Guides sessions on Monday evenings (7-8:30pm) at The Victory Room in Bucklebury. If you are interested in joining us as a Guide, please do get in touch via the Girl Guiding website.

**Mel Wilkes ([buckleburyguides@wilkesam1.plus.com](mailto:buckleburyguides@wilkesam1.plus.com))**

### Bradfield Brownies



We'd like to introduce 2nd Bradfield Brownies. We are a Brownie unit for 7-10 year olds and meet on a fortnightly basis during term time. Our girls currently come mainly from Chapel Row, Bradfield, Upper Basildon and Beenham. Girls explore the world through our programme's six themes. We know trying different things is important to girls and young women. So we've built our new programme around six themes that offer girls a broad range of experiences. One theme might include activities to build your confidence, another take you on a muddy adventure or teach you how to fix a plug. Everything girls do in the new programme will fit into a theme. It's a neat way to group together badges, activities and awards focusing on a similar area. Thinking about activities by theme is also a way to make sure girls are offered a balanced and varied programme. By giving them a well-rounded experience, we can help girls develop their sense of self and how they relate to the wider world.



### Introducing the six themes

All six themes are equally important as each represents an area of girls' development.

Centred on you

Know Myself: Girls explore emotions and learn about themselves. They'll look at what they enjoy, build confidence and discover how feelings affect behaviour.

Express Myself: Girls develop their creativity in all sorts of ways. They'll make up stories and create inventions to solve problems and start thinking laterally and teaching creative skills to friends.

Be Well: Girls learn how to stay healthy and how to help others when they're hurt.

Connecting with the world and others

Have Adventures: Girls have the chance to overcome fears, try new activities and learn survival skills. Getting outside and having adventures has always been an important part of guiding.

Take Action: Girls build skills to make a positive difference, whether in their community, the wider world or with the people they know

Skills For My Future: Girls investigate what they might like to do in the future and how they can grow their life skills.

### How do girls work on themes?

When a girl does any activity, badge or award from the new programme she'll be developing her skills in one of the themes. The themes stay the same through every section of guiding. So a girl can start to develop a skill as a Rainbow, build on it as a Brownie and Guide and take it even further as a Ranger. The longer she stays in guiding the fuller her experience will be.

Girls will probably naturally gravitate towards one theme more than others, particularly as they get older and develop their interests. Some might lean towards technical or creative skills, others to adventurous challenges or social action.

That isn't a problem. The main thing is making sure girls are supported to try all the themes available. And that we offer them a balanced and varied programme as set out in our Five Essentials – the principles that run through everything we do in guiding. After all, challenging girls to try things they wouldn't normally can help them reach their full potential.

### Summer term 2018

This term, due to lack of availability of volunteers, Bradfield Brownies was temporarily merged with Pangbourne

Brownies, so that girls did not miss out. The girls enjoyed many shared activities. As well as trying to attract more children to join, we really do need more local adults to volunteer to support the unit. There is no restriction on age, sex or background, or on how much time you are able to give. We have people from various backgrounds helping with our local units.

### Autumn Term 2018

This term involved a few community events for us. We took part in the Remembrance Services in Bradfield. The unit had a wreath to be laid at Beenham memorial for the second time this year. We also took part in the Christmas markets at Bradfield and Beenham. We had our annual District Campfire with other local units at Thirtover. It was a fantastic opportunity for singing, hot chocolate and fun. We were unable to take part in the Christingle and Christmas tree lighting in St Mary's Beenham this year, however, the girls led a carol singing session and hosted Father Christmas in Beenham. The girls implemented some of their promise and followed their interests. They all chose a badge or badges that they would do in their own time, and were supported by leaders this term to achieve these. We also welcomed a new leader to the unit, and celebrated some of our older girls going up to Guides.

### Spring term 2019

Our District Thinking Day took place at Pangbourne Village Hall. The girls who attended had lots of fun meeting other Brownies, Guides and Rainbows. We have implemented some activities from the new programme, including teaching the girls how to strike a match, and making sock puppets. All our leaders are up to date with their First Aid and Safeguarding training and have also undertaken some training in how to deliver the new programme.

### Future plans for the unit

We are currently looking ahead to next term and are planning a pack holiday in Chippenham for the girls in May 2019. We are looking forward to taking part in the Bradfield Mayfayre and Beenham Summer Fair again. We are planning on doing various outdoor activities such as Bell boating, Low Ropes, Orienteering and grass sledging in the summer.

Please do contact me for further information.

**Tanya Bunce (Eeyore), Leader in Charge, Second Bradfield Brownies,**

**[secondbradfieldbrownies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:secondbradfieldbrownies@yahoo.co.uk)**

**(07962985592, [tgalliar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tgalliar@yahoo.co.uk))**



# Best of Bucklebury Weekend

22nd – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

## Programme of events

Event	Day	Timings	Location
<b>Art Exhibition by local artists</b>	Saturday	10.30 - 16.00	Victory Rooms
	Sunday	10.00 - 13.00	
<b>Church activities:-</b>			
Peal of bells	Saturday	14.00 - 14.45	St. Mary's, Bucklebury Village
Flower festival	Saturday	11.00 - 17.00	
	Sunday	10.00 - 13.00	
Tower tours	Saturday	14.45 - 15.45	
Church history talk	Saturday	15.30 - 16.00	
<b>Cottage Inn event for parishioners and</b>			
BBQ			
Live bands (14.00 - 21.00)			
Photography competition prize giving	Sunday	12.00 - 21.00	Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury
If you wish to attend please contact Gary at the Cottage Inn, OR email buckleburyevent@gmail.cpm.			
<b>History walk to the Coronation Oak</b>	Saturday	10.30 - 12.00	Start at the Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
<b>Open gardens</b>	Saturday	14.00 - 17.00	Maps for the various gardens and farm will be available on the 22nd June at the Victory
<b>Photography exhibition</b>	Saturday	13.30 - 17.00	Oak Room, Memorial Hall, Upper Bucklebury
	Sunday	10.00—12.00	
<b>School - 'Learning the Bucklebury Way'</b>	Saturday	AM	Bucklebury Primary School

## Bucklebury Primary School

*The following is taken from a letter to parents and friends of Bucklebury School pupils from the Chair of Governors about their recent Ofsted inspection.*

I cannot let the spring term draw to a close without pausing to congratulate and thank Mr Higgs, the staff, pupils and governors on the excellent outcome of our recent one day Ofsted Inspection.

The inspector determined that we continue to be a good school and have successfully addressed the areas for improvement identified in the last Ofsted Inspection four years ago.

This alone is an impressive outcome, with a new headteacher and increased Ofsted expectations since our last inspection together with the challenges posed by the pressure of ever diminishing resources.

However, what really stood out from the Inspector's verbal feedback and formal report was the fact that in just one, albeit rigorous, day the Inspector was able to capture the very essence of Bucklebury School, why and how we do what we do and the impact it has on the pupils in our care. She praised the strength of our vision, values and ethos that shine through everything we do; the effectiveness of governance and Mr Higgs' strong leadership; the high morale of both staff and pupils and the absolute commitment of the staff. But most importantly she commended our 'happy', 'thoughtful and considerate' pupils who 'value each other', 'enjoy taking additional responsibility', 'learn well' and are 'enthusiastic learners'.

The report is a real testament to the vision, incredible hard work and dedication of school leaders, staff and governors, our wonderful pupils and of course the vital role you, our parents and carers, play in supporting both your own children in their learning and the wider school community through volunteering and fundraising.

However, as the report recognises, we will not rest on our laurels. The governing body, along with Mr Higgs and all the staff, are ambitious and committed to the continuous improvement of our school to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our pupils in mind, body and spirit.

As chair of governors, I am confident that the varied skill-set, experience and commitment of our board will enable us to continue to carry out our key roles as governors in a professional and rigorous manner. At this time of year finalising the budget, pupil outcomes and pupil numbers for the next academic year are high on our agenda.

However, there is a lighter side to governance and this term, in addition to being a frequent visitor during the school day,

I have enjoyed many celebration assemblies and most recently an engaging and informative morning at Greenham Common with Woodpecker Class.

Best wishes,

**Anna Tayton - Chair of Governors**

## West Berks Ballet School



Our spring term seems to have whizzed past in a mad whirl of Cinderella rehearsals, costume fittings, scenery painting and general excitement which heralds a forthcoming production.

Ticket sales at Arlington Arts Centre have been fantastic and we look forward to three packed houses on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Only five dancing weeks before our cast of 96 is on stage!

Claire, Gemma & Lucie don't have this luxury for their production during the ever-popular Easter course – they manage to produce a whole show, complete with costumes and scenery in just four days! This year's "Oliver" was no exception and it's always fascinating to discover new singing voices and actors from the ever-changing participants.

As before, Claire and her talented team, which now includes three of WBBS senior students who look after craft, scenery making, wardrobe, props and endless cups of tea & coffee, will be rubbing the ever popular magic lamp to reveal **Aladdin** during the summer holidays (Week 1 – 6th-9th August & Week 2 – 12th-15th August).

We look forward to welcoming several new dancers who have had to wait until after Cinderella to join us and, of course, we are really excited to start the summer term after the Easter break.

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

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



Cast of "Oliver" - 12th April 2019

# The Chapel Row Fayre

**The Green, Bucklebury RG7 6PD**

**Saturday 24<sup>TH</sup> August**

**from 1pm – 5pm Free Admission & Parking**

***A great family day out***



Sheep Racing, Ferret Racing, Victorian funfair, centre attraction dog agility display, children's corner, bouncy castles, Go Karts, Climbing Wall, Dog Show, Classic Cars, many craft stalls, Graham's Hog Roast, Tea Tent with homemade cakes and sandwiches, Beer Tent, Pimm's stand, Tombola, fantastic Raffle Prizes and Live Prize Auction

In aid of local charities: The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, Newbury's Macmillan's, West Berkshire Mencap and Motor Neurone Disease Association and ABF Soldiers Charity.

For more information or donations, contact [Alexjhaines83@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Alexjhaines83@hotmail.co.uk) or go to [www.chapelrowfayre.co.uk](http://www.chapelrowfayre.co.uk)



## Organisations

### Tuesday Ladies' Club (TLC)

TLC A Social Group for women in our community and surrounding areas.

Good news, we are very pleased that our group will continue, a number of people have come forward to form a New Committee.

The aim of our group is to provide a welcoming social setting for women to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.45 pm at the Oak room, Upper Bucklebury.

We invite speakers to our meetings and watch demonstrations about a wide range of interesting subjects or participate in hands on activities for example making beaded jewellery, silk painting cards, sugar craft and first aid.

At some events our partners are invited to participate. A £3.00 fee is paid when attending. If you wish to be added to our mailing list please contact us on [buckleburytlc@gmail.com](mailto:buckleburytlc@gmail.com)

In February we had an interactive talk by Claire, a personal colour coordinator and spent a fascinating and amusing evening matching our own colouring, divided into either spring, summer autumn winter, to the colour of clothes we should be wearing. Some of us had actually got it right!

At our March meeting we remembered the words to Nursery Rhymes even attempting to sing a few words. Barbara Hatley explained the many interesting historical origins of the nursery Rhymes.

At the April meeting we have an evening being instructed in the intricacies of sugar craft, fiddley but rewarding. Our Easter cake decorations should impress!

#### Dates for your diary

**21st May-** Oz Graves gives a demonstration and taster evening of delicious Turkish food.

**11th June - 2.00pm to 4.00pm.** We have arranged an afternoon visit to the beautiful gardens of Boxford House with a guided tour by Meri Mower.

The Family garden has been extensively developed over the last seven years. The emphasis of the five acre main garden is roses. The garden also features a terrace, water feature, colourful herbaceous borders and woodland. Cost £10.00 per person including tea. Money raised will be given to charity.

**July 9th** - Social gathering for afternoon tea, in a lovely garden setting.

**September 10th** - A creative fun evening with chalk and charcoal. Whether it's a first drawing session or for an experienced artist an opportunity to create a still life picture using this versatile material.

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

### Bucklebury Walkers

We are a mixed group of walkers who meet on the first Thursday of each month – list on the Bucklebury web page or Helen, 01635 867619 [grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com) – at 10.00 a.m. for about 3 – 4 miles and we now also run a shorter walk leaving at 10.30 and walking for about 2 miles. We then meet back at the venue for coffee and sometimes lunch - you are welcome to join either group.

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

Please note that these are social walks and you are responsible for your own safety.

**Helen Relf,**  
01636 867619. [grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com)

**WALKING** according to A.C. Grayling, Professor of Philosophy.

According to the Arabs, a human soul can travel only as fast as a camel can trot. But even a camel trot is too fast for real appreciation of our world's layout. Only a human walking pace measures it correctly. To walk the country lanes and hills is to fall into step with the rest of nature; that is the pace of the cattle and the crops, the breeze, the shifting clouds. You do not see these in their proper time frame when you dash by them in a car or train; still less if you see them miniaturised from 30,000 feet.

Walking, therefore, is good for one's sense of proportion, which is good for one's mental health. It has been observed that a five-mile walk does more for one's well-being than all the psychotherapy in the world. But as everyone knows, that is because walking is equally good for physical health.

## Mah-jong

We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month (not Bank Holidays) for a couple of hours of fun and relaxation. We are a mixed group and welcome beginners. At the moment we don't score at the end of each game but do have a member who is proficient in this should you wish to learn.

We usually have 6 – 12 playing each time and chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit (or two) as well. Cost is £3.00 per person.

We play using the rules written by Max Robertson, whose book "The Game of Mah-Jong" has been accepted as the foremost authoritative guide to the rules and scoring of this fascinating game. It is a Penguin book, ISBN 978-0-14-300659-6, and would be available through bookshops or on line. The U3A in Thatcham also follow these rules so it would be easy for anyone to join their group. I also have photocopied sheets showing the basic hands from this book available to members.

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

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

## West Berkshire Body Control 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.

This year we are excited that West Berks Body Control Pilates will have been running for 5 years. We plan to celebrate our anniversary with a fundraising party/event with the intention of raising money for ROS- Royal Osteoporosis Society and for Parkinson's Disease.

We currently teach a number of clients with low bone density (Osteoprosis and Osteopenia) and we both have Level 3 in Pilates for Bone Health. In March we attended a

course at the Body Control Pilates Centre in London to update our knowledge on this condition and because NOS have recently changed their guidelines for people with low bone density. This enables us to give the safest modifications to these clients which are recommended by BCP and NOS.

In the same weekend that we attended this course in London, Michaela also attended a training course in Manchester that enabled her to become a MELT® Method Hand and Foot Instructor. Michaela has very much been enjoying incorporating the MELT Method into her Pilates classes and has received so many positive responses-from decreased tension and stiffness in the neck and shoulder areas to increased mobility in the shoulder, wrist and fingers. One client even found that she was able to open the ring pull on a can of cat food with ease after practising MELT-something that she usually struggles with!

Mel is looking forward to attending a meeting during the summer at The Body Control Centre for Supervising Teachers. It is important in her role of supervising students who are currently training that she remains up to date with standards that students are expected to achieve in their final exam.



We had lots of fun with the run up to the Easter weekend with our Egg and Spoon balance classes, in which we incorporated balance and stability exercises into a class balancing a chocolate egg on a spoon... AND everyone got to eat their chocolate egg after class. We hope yours didn't get too smashed up!!!!

**We have spaces in our 10.45am Beginner class on Friday and also 10.45m on Wednesday in The Oak Rooms at Bucklebury Memorial Hall.**

**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 at 8.30pm, Wednesday at 9.30 am, 10.45am, 6.30pm and at 7.45pm, and Friday at 9.30am and at 10.45am**

**Classes are also held at The Fisher Rooms in Cold Ash on Monday at 7.00pm and at Peasemore Village Hall on**

**Tuesday at 6.15pm and Thursday at 6.15pm and 7.30pm.**

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)



## **Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society**

It is almost a year since my last ramblings, and I am pleased to say that the Society continues to prosper. We were slow out of the blocks this year because we were unable to secure Memorial Hall bookings. Thanks to the cooperation of other users and help from the hall committee our programme was finalised for this year and hopefully a basis agreed for the future. The disruption has not been detrimental to the enthusiasm of our members; attendances at our events have been encouraging, no doubt helped by our Chairman's email reminders.

We learnt a lot of incredible facts about honey bees in February. From sustainable air conditioning in their hives to truths about Manuka honey. We all left the hall with the greatest respect for these magic insects. Growing daffodils for showing was even more enlightening, the advice too late for this year, but future success will require trips to Holland's bulb fields, re-mortgages to purchase prize winning bulbs, tons of special compost and hiring a truck to transport our exhibits to the show bench. The new green schedule gives details of all of our remaining activities, at the end of April (**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>**) we will learn about the Historic Gardens of Berkshire. We are half way through our programme, but we still have a lot to enjoy.

Our Spring Show benefitted from the move to a Sunday. Our Chairman struggled into the hall, carrying a spectacular pink orchid. A prize winner for sure, until our eagle-eyed judge spotted that it had been a popular restaurant for the ladybirds which John had kindly provided with winter lodgings. All our numbers were significantly up on previous years and the Memorial Hall was full of the sight and smell of spring flowers. Timing of the show is always a lottery. A cold February and March holds back the Narcissi, but a bit

of warmth helps the shrubs. The new format was a success, if you don't exhibit, or you are not a member, please come along for a coffee and chat next spring. With a few tweaks, it will be repeated next year, don't forget to hire the truck!

If your garden has a few gaps or you have pots to fill, and you can't afford expensive Garden Centre plants imported from Europe, please come to Cottismore Nursery evening on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, from 6.30pm**. You will be able to select affordable, good quality, locally grown produce and support the efforts of disabled gardeners in the process.

The Coach trip this year is to Stanstead Park and Gardens, near Chichester, on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. It promises to be an exciting day out. We have arranged a Tour of the House, entry to The Garden Show, you can bring a picnic, but there is a Tearoom and Farm Shop. Also there is a walled Garden, Arboretum, Maze and the Stanstead Park Light Railway. Leaving Peaches/ Blade Bone at 9am we aim to be back in Bucklebury at about 5.30pm. We have 30 members booked in already, but still have spare seats on the coach, to reserve yours give me a call (see below).

June is a busy month, with two trips and our Society supporting **"The Best of Bucklebury"**. Some of our members' gardens will be open on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. I guess we will be involved in other events on the day.

Our next outing is to the RHS Gardens at Wisley, probably the best garden in the world, and it is practically on our doorstep. **NO COACH**, but you can travel in your own transport for **FREE!** Assemble at All Saint's Church, Upper Bucklebury, at **9am on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** for final briefing and dispatch. You can bring friends and family, a picnic, but no dogs. Once inside you will be left to do your own thing and return as you wish.

Our Summer Show is on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July** in the Memorial Hall and our Autumn Show at the same venue on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**. Full details are in the schedule; take a look to see if you can manage to produce a few entries. Visitors are welcome to the hall during the afternoon (2.00-4.00pm). There is no charge to see all the wonderful exhibits.

New members are always welcome, bring a friend or neighbour to any of our events. If you feel you have the energy to improve the Society, why not join our small and friendly committee? Membership is free for a trial year, contact John Wright (01635 863429).

Happy Gardening.

**Derek Matthews (0118 9712587)**

## Country Life

### HISTORY OF BUCKLEBURY CECILIA MILLSON

*After the war, when she and her husband came to live in Bucklebury, Mrs. Cecilia Millson produced some historical scenes for the Women's Institute. In her research she had to delve into the history of Bucklebury and in doing so she became interested personally. Mrs. Millson kindly agreed to write a series of articles on Bucklebury for the magazine, and were first printed in 1973.*

#### Part XIII

Relics of the past remain hidden for years, to be found in the most unlikely places. So it was with a bronze-age sword, hidden in the rubble under the vestry of the Parish Church, and discovered when repairs were made to the floor in recent years.

Another ancient relic is encased in the sign of the Bladebone Inn. The blade bone of a mammoth, which was taken by a Bucklebury man when the skeleton was found in the Kennet Valley centuries later. In 1666 the blade bone was depicted on tokens issued by John Moorecock, Landlord of the Inn.

The Common Gates, once used to confine the grazing sheep and cattle to common land, have been removed, but the old names remain, and at Brown's Gate we can still see the Village Pound with its adjacent pond. The other Pound, once situated in The Slade, has completely disappeared.

Another old custom has almost passed – fern cutting – which used to commence on September 1<sup>st</sup>, when men rose early to claim a good patch of fern to provide winter bedding for their animals.

Hidden cottages are found in remote parts of the Common, giving credence to the legend that if a man could build the chimney in the night, he could claim the right to build his house on Common land.

Bucklebury can boast of more footpaths than any other parish in England and we have to thank Mr. Neville Hadcock for recording these paths so well. Enthusiastic volunteers are now keeping them in good order. Many of these paths were made by men who walked daily to their work at the Foundry, and the Manor timber yard, and by the children as they walked across the fields to the village school. Now, the old school stands empty and the children are taught in a modern building in Upper Bucklebury.

All Saints' Church was built in 1962 to provide a place of

worship in this most populated part of the parish, but St Saviour's Church, which had served the Lower Common and the gypsies, was reluctantly demolished two years ago, as it was little used and in a sad condition.

Recently we have seen the passing of the Bradfield R.D.C. which cared for our interests so well for many years, and Bucklebury is now part of the newly formed Newbury R.D.C.

So history is made and passes, but our village claims our devotion, and brings others to find peace on its beautiful Common, as the monks came in medieval times. It so captured the imagination of the late Mr. Arthur Humphreys that he worked for many years, searching into the past, and in 1932 published his "History of Bucklebury", surely one of the most complete records of the history of a village. To this I am indebted for much of the material for these articles. Also, I would like to say how grateful I am to the late Miss Goddard, who kept old Parish Magazines so faithfully, and presented them to my husband just before she died. These, too, have proved most useful for my research. I know that much more remains to be told about the past of our village, but I hope that what I have written will encourage readers to make further research, and so keep alive the traditions of our beloved village.

*NOTE: This is the last part of Cecilia Millson's History of Bucklebury. I hope you have found it interesting? The History Group has a copy of Humphrey's History of Bucklebury which is available for reference – please contact me Helen Relf [grannyrelf@btinternet.com](mailto:grannyrelf@btinternet.com) 01635 867619.*

### The Davis Family who used to live in The Old Post Office

The known history begins with one Robert Bedding - 1759 -1847 - (Horse Doctor and Land Measurer) who, with his daughter Martha, originally lived down Hatch Lane. There is a house there now called "Beddings Gulley", which we presume occupies the site on which his cottage once stood.

In 1844 Martha married Charles Davis (1815-1882) and they all moved to the house in Bucklebury now known as The Old Post Office and where Charles became the first Post Master in the village. They had three children, Thomas, William and George.

Thomas (1846-1926), who was "a Carpenter and Coffin Maker", married Emma Lailey, a daughter of the owner of The Old Boot Inn in Stanford Dingley. On the occasion of their betrothal, his future father-in-law gave him a parcel of land on Jennets Hill "in token of the honour and esteem in which I hold you" and here Thomas built a house -



Kingsmead – where he and Emma lived and produced five children.

William (1848-1902) married a Bessie Turner and they had three children.

George (1850-1925) married Eliza Johnson who, I believe, came from White Waltham – presumably to take up the position as Assistant Teacher at the school. George was an engineer and worked at The Foundry – he became an expert on the new-fangled steam engines and would travel round the country to various farms when there were problems. George and Eliza had five children – Francis (Frank), Stella, Robert (Bob, my father), Eleanor and Arthur. Eventually the boys all left home – Frank to work for the Post Office in Reading, Bob was apprenticed to a baker in Reading and Arthur became an engineer. Eleanor married a farmer in Wiltshire and Stella was left as the unmarried daughter, also working at the school and eventually looking after her mother after the rather too early death of George.

It was Stella and her mother Eliza (my Grandmother) with whom my brother and I spent our holidays, frequently joined by our older cousins George and Frances, the two younger offspring of Arthur and his wife. How my “maiden aunt” coped with the sudden influx of four healthy, hungry youngsters into her quiet, ordered life in a house with no mod-cons is beyond me now, but looking back we just took it all for granted.

When Stella died, aged 73 (very young for a Davis, due to an unfortunate encounter with a motorbike) she left the house to her eldest nephew, George. He was by now married, settled in Wales and did not want the family home. However, his father, Arthur, was about to retire from his engineering business in Hereford and he and his wife, Gertrude, were delighted to accept their son’s offer of the cottage, but Gertrude would not move until some modernisation had taken place. Who could blame her? There was no indoor sanitation, no bathroom, no running hot and cold water. When we stayed there as children we enjoyed the delights of a “three-holer” in the garden, chamber pots for night use, a shallow slate sink in the kitchen with a pump for cold water and bath night was a tin hip bath in front of the living room fire. Laundry was done in a copper in the hallway, heated somehow from the old black range in the kitchen. I remember our excitement one year when we found electricity had been installed – prior to that we had used oil lamps and candles. After Gertrude had died, Arthur continued living there alone until his death in, I think, 1983 or thereabouts. This was when George put the house on the market and Brian and Vivien Ward eventually bought it.

My grandfather George was Captain of the Belfry and Grandmother Eliza was the church organist. Auntie Stella

succeeded them both in both positions and eventually Arthur continued the family tradition and became Captain of the Belfry himself. He also preceded John Tennant in doing church and churchyard maintenance and was once seen cleaning the weathercock on the steeple when he was well into his eighties.

**Mary Platt - April 2019**

## **Bluebell Walk – The Wimbles and Burden’s Heath**

From the Memorial Hall car park walk back towards the village and turn left down Long Grove immediately before Peaches Garage. At the end of the path turn right through the woods and down the hill (*the bluebells here are excellent, especially on a sunny day*). Keep to the path heading virtually straight down as the paths to the left and right are private. At the bottom, (*it can be muddy*), go over the bridge and out into the field. Bear right and keep the hedge on your right until you see the footpath sign leading off to the right. Go down a steep bank and over the bridge (*can be muddy here and path a little difficult to negotiate*) and over stiles up the hill towards The Wimbles.

At the houses follow the lane to the permitted path and turn left heading towards Thatcham. Go down this path as far as the steps and then carefully exit the path onto the road and turn right back up to the corner to take the footpath on the left. Follow this wide path with trees on your left and the gravel extraction on your right (*excellent blackberries!*). At cross paths follow the footpath sign straight ahead and at the left hand bend also follow sign straight ahead and bearing slightly right until you reach the road.

Cross the road towards The Slade and take the path on the right before the Quiet Lane signs. This path runs almost parallel to the road – turn left at the telegraph line and carry on until you come to a wider path where you turn right. Cross the road and follow the Byway – at the Y junction follow the red Byway sign bearing to the right.

Turn right at the junction with the main track, cross the road and then turn left onto Broad Lane and back to the start.

**Helen Relf**

## Halls

### Bucklebury Victory Room

We've had two successful fund-raising events in 2019.

The Ceilidh was held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and attended by 58 guests. It was a great evening with Pipe Major Ron Patterson and the St Andrews Scottish Dancers guiding us through a number of reels, strathspeys and waltzes. Mandy Shora entertained us beautifully with a number of Scottish songs and ballads. Many thanks to Alastair McOran-Campbell for organising the entertainment and the committee from preparing the food.

The wine tasting evening was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in association with the Wine Man from Yattendon. We had 50 guests who enjoyed an educational evening with some excellent wines. Thanks go to Robin Ranken for organising and again the committee for preparing the food.

We raised £1,500 from these events so a big thank you to everyone that attended and for your continuing support.

Our next event will be to provide refreshments at the Art Exhibition in the Victory Room for the Best of Bucklebury weekend on 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

We continue to try to raise funds for the Victory Room Re-development and have been successful in receiving some good-sized donations. In the last update, we talked about the possibility of dividing the project into two parts and I am pleased to say that the Good Exchange has agreed to provide matched funding of £50,000 against each phase of the project. We will hopefully be able to share more details in the next Oaks of how we plan to take the project forward.

**John Brims**

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

**0118 9713308**

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



## Sports

### Bucklebury Badminton Club

#### **Bucklebury Gets Level 2 Coach**

Congratulations to club member Colin Shurey who has qualified as a level 2 coach and will be offering even more expert coaching to all members free of charge. Our thanks go to Colin for all the hard work he puts in.

#### **Bucklebury Ladies Top Div 2**

Yes, the ladies' A team have come top in their division and will face stiff competition in division 1 next season. Well done to our younger members, Elizabeth Craig (ladies' captain), Cara Brims and Olivia May for playing so well in their matches.

All the other teams have performed well and stayed in their respective divisions. Most club members have played matches at some stage this season.

You don't have to play matches; you can just come and enjoy club nights. However, we are always looking for more match standard players too. We have a wide range of ages and abilities and we are a very sociable crowd. Please feel free to come along and join in.

We continue to play throughout the summer with the exception of August. Check the website for dates. Club nights are on Tuesdays when visitors are always welcome. Members can play on Wednesday evenings too and special free coaching sessions will be available from May onwards.

More information is available on our website.

**VENUE:** Elstree School, Woolhampton, RG7 5TD

**DAY:** every Tuesday 8 to 10 p.m.

**COST:** £5 for visitors (deducted from subscription which is £110 per annum **pro rata**. £50 for students)

**CONTACT:** Margaret Neville 01635 873811  
[margaretnev@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaretnev@yahoo.co.uk)

**WEBSITE:** [buckleburybadmintonclub.com](http://buckleburybadmintonclub.com)

## FC Cougars

At FC Cougars our football season is now coming to an end for the summer, but all our teams will be in action playing summer tournaments in Berkshire and beyond! Our presentation day is being held during the morning of Sunday 12 May at Bucklebury Recreation Ground, with all our players receiving their trophies for the season in The Victory Room.

FC Cougars are a fun and friendly youth football club for players in Bucklebury, Thatcham, and the surrounding area. Our teams play matches home and away on Sundays in the Reading and West Berkshire League. All our team managers and helpers have current enhanced DBS checks and our managers are FA licensed coaches.

### Players Wanted!

We are currently seeking new players to join our Under 14 team (open to children currently in school years 8 and 9) and our new Under 7 team (for children currently in school year 2). If you know someone who might be interested in either starting to play regular football, or switch to a fun team with children from the local area then please get in touch! We welcome boys and girls of all abilities. As well as keen young players we are also looking for parent volunteers who would like to help with the running of our Under 7 team.

For more details on FC Cougars please contact [graham@fccougars.com](mailto:graham@fccougars.com) or see our website [www.fccougars.com](http://www.fccougars.com)



FC Cougars

## 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 of publication.**

**Wynne Frankum**

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

## May

8th	Horticultural Society	From 6.30pm	Cottismore Nursery.
10th	Bucklebury Parish Annual Assembly	7.45pm	Victory Room, Bucklebury
13th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall.
20th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
21st	TLC	7.45pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall

## June

3rd	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
6th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
8th	Horticultural Society - trip to Stanstead Park & Gardens	9am departure	Collection Peaches / The Bladebone.
10th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall.
11th	TLC	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Afternoon visit to Boxford House
17th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
22nd/23rd	Best of Bucklebury Weekend	Various	Various.
24th	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall
29th	Horticultural Society - trip to RHS Wisley	9.00am	Assembly All Saints Church.

## July

1st	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
4th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	The Cottage Inn, Upper Bucklebury.
8th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall.
9th	TLC	To be confirmed	To be confirmed.
13th	Horticultural Society - Summer Show	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Memorial Hall.
15th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
22nd	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall

## August

1st	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	Bucklebury Farm Park.
12th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall.
24th	Chapel Row Fayre	1.00pm - 5.00pm	Chapel Row Green.

## September

2nd	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
5th	Bucklebury Walkers	10.00am/10.30am	To be confirmed.
9th	Bucklebury Parish Council	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall.
10th	TLC	7.45pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
14th	Horticultural Society - Autumn Show	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Memorial Hall.
16th	Mah-jong	2.00pm	Oak Room, Memorial Hall.
23rd	Bucklebury Planning Committee	7.45pm	Committee Room, Memorial Hall