

# Old Buckenham Newsletter



April 2026



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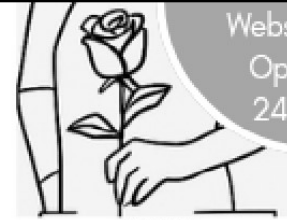
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This month our sponsors are Deborah and Richard Dunseith. They wish to celebrate 20 years living in Old Buckenham, a significant birthday and their 25th wedding anniversary. Our congratulations to them.

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. There are only October free this year. Should you have a special occasion that you wish to celebrate during the year you may be able to share a month with someone else.

## Discover Your Village

The Groups and Clubs Morning will be on Saturday 25 April from 10am to 12.30pm in the Old Buckenham Village Hall. Are you curious about all the clubs, groups and organisations that you hear about in the village newsletter or see around the village? You'll be able to meet representatives from lots of local groups, clubs and organisations including the Scout movement, Youth Club, Methodist Chapel, All Saints Church, Luncheon Club, Almshouses Committee, Village Hall Management Committee, Parish Council (including Community Car and Speedwatch), Green Working Party, Friends of Old Buckenham Windmill, Old Buckenham Players, The Shelf Popup Pantry, Fawns Playgroup, Women's Institute, Bingo Group, the Social Circle and

of course this village newsletter. They'll all be ready to chat about what they do, how they support village life and how you can get involved, whether you're looking for a new hobby, want to volunteer, or simply want to know more about what's happening locally. There will be refreshments – tea and coffee - and lots of cake. The Scout group will be running activities for young people.

Everyone in the village is warmly invited, come along, discover something new, and celebrate the brilliant groups that help make Old Buckenham such a great place to live.

## More tributes to Michael

*Dr Jan Sheldon of St Martins led more tributes to Michael Bartlett at the service on Thursday 19*

The Old Buckenham Newsletter is published monthly and distributed free in and around Old Buckenham.

The editor is Ron Brewer of 'Crockslea', Cake Street, Old Buckenham, NR17 1PS who you can email with your news or your queries about advertising by going to [obnewspostbox@aol.com](mailto:obnewspostbox@aol.com)

You can also keep up with the latest village news and see photos of the latest activities by going to <http://oldbuckenham.blogspot.com>

*February.* Thank you Pauline for giving me the opportunity to present a tribute to Michael – it's a great honour for St Martins. I arrived at St Martins early in 2018. Like any new role there is always a lot to learn and many people to meet. After a couple of weeks one of our Trustees asked me whether I'd met Michael Bartlett. I replied that I wasn't sure. My Trustee replied that I would know if I had as Michael was someone I would not forget if I had met him. How right this Trustee was.

A few weeks later Michael arrived in my office, and I discovered firsthand what a force of nature he was but in a very good way. He came with a list and left me with a list upon his departure (I'm still wondering how he managed to do that!). This became a regular event and as a result of Michael's visits I found myself writing to royalty, pushing local press for support and harassing the Bishop. I was left in no doubt that Michael would return to find out how I had progressed with the tasks he left me. The energy and enthusiasm Michael had for our work was limitless. He was and remains a role model for many of us at St Martins.

Over the last 15 years or so Michael has collected over



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£400,000 for St Martins. Not by doing great big fundraising bashes but by quietly encouraging support for supermarket collections. Many of you will have supported him with these collections and I thank you all for that.

Michael had a little black book of contacts at supermarkets who he kept in regular touch with. He knew the right people to talk to and when to ask me to appear and thank people. He was also in regular contact with the press. Throughout the year Michael had a schedule and we were so fortunate to have him. It's fair to say that our supermarket



*Bob Adams*

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collection fundraising has taken a significant dip over the last couple of years which only goes to show what a difference Michael made in his quiet but determined way. I think like most people Michael found the confines of the Covid lock downs frustrating. As soon as we were allowed to meet outdoors Michael invited me over to his beautiful garden to plan for the future and I was fortunate enough to enjoy Pauline's fabulous homemade shortbread. It wasn't long before Michael was back at the supermarkets greeting old friends and fundraising. I spent a lot of time pondering how best we could show Michael how much he was valued by us all at St Martins. I made an application for an honour for him thinking that an MBE or an OBE would be a very fitting way of recognising his incredible efforts. There was much back and forth communication with the Cabinet Office and then nothing. I was not happy about this but it seemed after about four years that I had reached the end of the road with my application. I later discovered that Michael had already been honoured for his charity work some years before but in true Michael style he'd not ever mentioned it. The best we could manage was to recognise him as an incredible Fundraiser at our 50th anniversary

dinner which I understand from Pauline that he was reluctant to attend but she got him there. We will also be ensuring that his memory lives on as we name one of our new projects at Netherwood Green 'Bartlett House'.

*I'd also like to share one or two thoughts from some of my colleagues who worked closely with him. Helen is our Head of Marketing, Communication and Fundraising she shared with me that:* My memory of Michael is his unwavering commitment to St Martins and the way he encouraged the whole of the Old Buckenham community to get involved and this support carries on today.

I often asked him to be in a photo and tell me about why he supported St Martins, but he never wanted any acknowledgement or publicity. He was committed and humble, but he could stubborn too when he felt strongly about something. I remember when we rebranded he wasn't keen on swapping his tabard to one with the new logo on it. We tried to swap the collection buckets over, only to find he had a collection of old buckets stacked in his garage labelled 'the Norwich Night Shelter' that kept popping up every time he did a collection. Bishopbridge House (or the Night

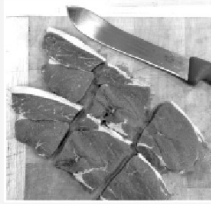
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Shelter as Michael referred to it) was extended to accommodate a further seven beds in 2017, a result of Michael's fundraising. This meant that fewer people were sleeping rough.

*Kate, our Vice Chair, remembers:* Michael was an amazing fund raiser and gathered a great deal of support in his home village. I have been to several of the gatherings he organised on a Saturday morning where he presented St Martins with significant amounts of money from all the organisations in the village, church and schools. He managed to get so many people involved in this huge fundraising effort, he really was quite remarkable. I also recall St Martins 50th anniversary dinner when we were on the same table. He was so surprised and modest when he received his special award.

*Jo, our Director of Operations, reminded me how Michael had recruited her daughter to fundraising at an early age. Jo said:* I supported Michael with the St Martins supermarket collections on a few occasions; one particular time I took my daughter and nephew with me. I remember how lovely Michael was with them and how he was recruiting them for future fundraising. That was my

daughter's first exposure to fundraising and it has continued to this day.

*Gareth, one of our Trustees, wanted to share his memories too. He told me:* Meeting Michael at an Advisory Board meeting, I volunteered to help with his St Martins Supermarket collections at several Tesco or Morrison Stores. Without drama or fuss, he would simply ring to ask me to fill his two hour lunch break on a set date collecting. A man of few words, on arrival at the supermarket I would simply be given a hi viz tabard, a separate bucket and he would disappear until promptly reappearing at 1pm when I would then go home and he would continue to patiently stand and collect for hours. He would ring the next day telling me of the extraordinary sum collected and my contribution. This pattern was repeated every time I collected at a supermarket and in my diary, I would refer to the duty amusingly as 'Michael's Lunch time lad'! Michael was the driving force for supermarket collecting and, along with his team, consistently collecting nearly as much as the St Martins Annual Street collection. What an amazing legacy he leaves the Charity.

*Michael wasn't just passionate about fundraising. He saw the bigger picture too. Maria, our Director of Homeless Services,*

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*reminded me that:* Michael was incredibly passionate about supporting the work of St Martins, using all practical measure at his disposal. Outside of his ongoing fundraising support he also approached local, influential people to further his ambition to end homelessness, with a keen focus on people who were sleeping on the streets. On one particular occasion, Michael invited me to join him to meet a newly appointed superintendent within Norfolk Constabulary where he presented his case for better partnership and police support to address this ongoing issue. Michael eloquently and with considerable confidence, expressed his frustration and presented ideas for the Superintendent to consider while I sat quietly observing.

*This is just a small collection of the*

*memories and stories Michael leaves behind at St Martins. I hope this gives you all an insight into how important Michael has been to St Martins and how his legacy will live on.*

## Early times at Almshouses

*Ray Henning has written about his experiences of the almshouses:* I now live in Devon but when I first visited the Almshouses I was a baby and we must have come from Croydon by train. I was about four or possibly five years old. I remember going by steam train to Attleborough Station and then on the bus to Old Buckenham. Later when Dad had a car we used to drive up from Lewes in Sussex. Seemed to take all day back then, it must have been in the 1950s. My Great Grandparents Edward Albert Edwards and Louisa Jane Edwards (nee Loveday) lived in the

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far end house (number ten) away from the road. He was a farm hand and ploughman until one of the horses stood on his foot disabling him so he could no longer work. I remember visiting as a child, which must be over 70 years ago as I am 80 this year.

My mum used to come and stay with her grandparents when she was a youngster. We also used to visit Uncle Tom and Aunt Jessie Gedge (Jessie was my Mums' mother's sister).

Other memories I have of Old Buckenham as a child are the cattle grazing freely on the Green and being taken down to the forge to see the blacksmith shoeing the horses. It must have been somewhere around 1950. Also Sunday lunch in the dining room with Great Grandma producing from the kitchen two large terrines full of steaming broad beans with large knobs of butter melting on the top. Great Grandad had grown

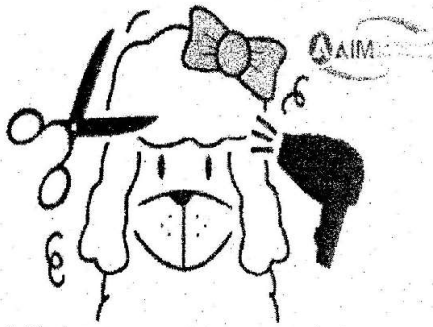
these in the back garden. I can still taste them now as I am writing this. Since then I had a very interesting chat with John Loveday having read his book 'The Boy from Rod Alley'. When I visited in September last year I got talking to a couple of chaps in the Ox and Plough, one who currently lived in one of the Almshouses and I hope to come back on another visit soon.

### Thinking about producing?

Planning for the Produce Show on Saturday 5 September is progressing well. The schedule is complete and will be dropping through your letterbox in the next couple of months. However if you're eager to start organising your entry then please email me for a copy on

*deliawebster28@gmail.com*

Could you also please let us know if you have a trophy from last year, as we would like to know where they all are. Additionally if you are a



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
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## All Saints April services

*Wednesday 1 April*

7pm Holy week meditation  
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*Thursday 2 April*

7pm Holy Communion for Maundy  
Thursday at St Mary's church Eccles

*Friday 3 April*

2pm 'Stations of the Cross'  
meditation for Good Friday

*Saturday 4 April*

8pm Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

*Sunday 5 April*

9.30am Holy Communion for  
Easter Day

*Tuesday 7 April*

10am Holy Communion. The First  
Tuesday Holy communion is re-  
starting in April. It will no longer be  
followed by coffee and chat.

*Wednesday 8 April*

7.30pm A time for Quiet

Reflection, led by a lay member of  
All Saints Church

*Sunday 12 April*

10am Holy Communion at St  
Mary's Kenninghall (no service at  
All Saints)

*Sunday 19 April*

9.30am Morning Prayer

*Sunday 26 April*

9.30am Holy Communion,  
followed by the Annual Parochial  
Church Meeting

The Church intends to put together  
a plan to provide kitchen facilities  
within the church. This will be a  
long term project for which much  
fundraising will be required, but  
they hope eventually to make it  
possible to hold many more events  
within the church for which  
refreshments can then be offered.

## Bingo once more

Church prize and cash Bingo  
continues again in the Village Hall  
on Sunday 18 April at 2pm. All  
welcome. Raffle and refreshments.  
Donations of raffle prizes to Alison  
Frank at The Old School House  
would be gratefully received.

## March Council minutes

*These notes by the newsletter  
editor have been written from the  
draft minutes and so may contain  
information that is changed at a  
later date.*

Old Buckenham Parish Council met

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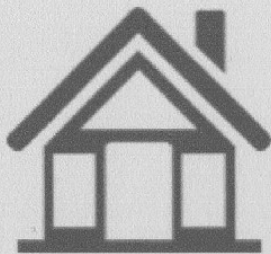
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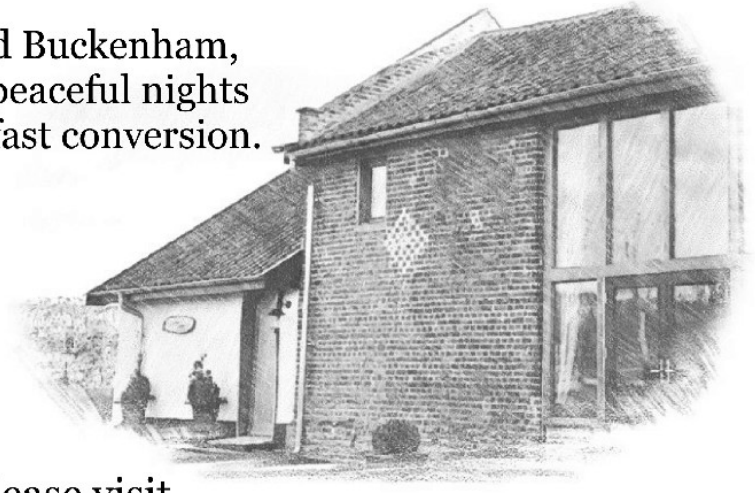
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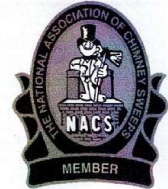
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on Thursday 5 March at Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Pete Twissell and Darren Butler. Apologies had been received from Steve Gowers and David Taylor. In attendance was Megan Elvin (Clerk) and eight members of the public. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 February were approved (5 in favour 1 abstained).

***Public participation, open forum.*** Member of public said that the path that runs from Norfolk House along to the shop gets very dangerous and muddy when it is wet. The Parish Council will investigate. Another member of public asked if a bigger bin can be provided outside the shop. The present one gets overfull very quickly and then causes rubbish to be blown across the Green. Will look into providing a second/find out who is responsible for the one currently there.

***Signage in the village.*** Give way sign from Harlingwood Lane onto Cake Street is covered by hedgerow. Letter to be sent to resident to cut the hedge back and to consult Highways. Also just past the rookery down Cake Street the signage of junction ahead is covered in hedgerow, same action required.

***Financial matters.*** The Barclays Community Account currently holds £10,507.82 with a further £3,637.29 in the Lloyds Community Account. Payments for approval totalled £861.15. These included £156.15 to the community car drivers, room hire fees of £42.50 and a late submission fine to HMRC of £200. Payment also issued to TBF Traffic Ltd of £438, initially approved in December for work to be carried out at Puddledock Corner.

The late filing fines have occurred due to waiting for salaries to be approved in the meeting before filing with HMRC. This then means that some dates the filing does not fall within the given dates. To avoid this in future, contracted hours will be filed and paid last working day of each month. Any additional hours/expenses will then be added to the following month's payment. The present RFO Julia Aitken is to stand down one month early due to other work commitments which prevents her from carrying out the role sufficiently. She will be stepping down from the end of March this year. Megan Elvin is to take on the position of RFO on top of that of Clerk, additional hours to be discussed in April's meeting. All approved (6 in favour)

***Councillors' and District***

# OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## CONTACT DETAILS

*For general enquiries please contact the Parish Clerk. If you do not have internet access you can drop a letter into the parish council post box at the village hall*

Parish Clerk and RFO Megan Elvin  
[clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Peter Twissell, [pc99twissell@gmail.com](mailto:pc99twissell@gmail.com)  
07826 375356

Copy for the May newsletter  
will need to be with the editor  
by

**Monday 20 April**

Contributions by email to  
[obnewspostbox@aol.com](mailto:obnewspostbox@aol.com)

*Councillor's reports.* Steve Askew was unable to attend but provided a short report. Naomi Bailey wondered if the old phone box could have a further use? Previously had been suggested to be used as a book swap but too close to the pond. Megan Elvin reported on correspondence she had received. One from UK Power Network about wanting to install broadband for a client but the telegraph pole is within the land registry NK455181 which the current property owner has claimed is not their address and is part of the Green. The Clerk to contact Sarah Dye and ask for advice. Also from a member of public wishing to use the Green for a family picnic in July. No application required for this but responded to ask that no cars to be parked on the Green. Three letters have been sent to transport companies whose drivers have been using Hargham Road in vehicles over the 7.5t weight limit. *New planning applications.* The Cottage, Loss Wroo, Hargham

Road. Single-storey rear extension to replace conservatory (PL/2026/0206/HOU). No issues. Proposal to support was approved (6 in favour).

### ***Green Working Committee.***

Meeting held in February. Steve Barker is to cut back pathway from school towards the Ox and Plough. Looking into quotes and estimates to clear Rod Alley Pond. Only one bat box left on the Green and looking to get some new ones put up. Structure of Committee is two green rights holders, two Parish Councillors, two members of the public and the Lord of the Manor. This cannot be changed. There was a litter pick and fallen branch pick up in March and Wednesday 22 April is another volunteer day. The first cut of the Green has been postponed until July due to the grass being too wet to cut. An area will be left wild. Will be querying increase on wayleaves. Risk assessments have been agreed and they need to be followed. Terms of Reference for Green Working Committee will need updating.

***Ottomer Pond.*** The Flood authority has issued correspondence to the landowner to carry out the clearing. The questions needing to be answered are who within the Parish Council has been assigned the task of being pro active at arranging for this watercourse to be cleared out so that the flow of water from the

pond is not restricted, what plan of action has been put in place, who you intend to contact and how do you intend to ensure an enforcement notice is issued to both land owners to clear any part of the watercourse next to their land and what plan do you have in place for the stretch of watercourse that runs between the high school and the stud which will also have Riparian rights. At the moment we cannot move further than what we already have. The Clerk to chase NCC again. At the pond area there is a lot of bull rushes which are catching on the drain. Councillors to be pro active and clear this when it occurs.

***Parking.*** Less cars are parking at The Gamekeeper and more cars parking down Abbey Road. Not a lot more the School can do as we cannot stop people parking. We do not have the authority. The High school newsletter which goes out weekly has the parking arrangements at the Gamekeeper.

***Crown Road parking and repairs.*** The trees that run down Crown Road are self seeding. Used to be a small ditch there. There is ample parking in other areas by the book shop and pub that people can use to park. Idea to make the area very shallow and posts around it to stop the parking from getting bigger or repair the Green back to what it should be and install

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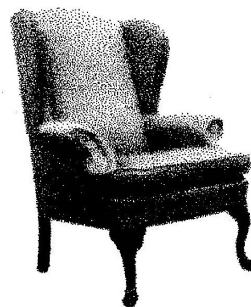
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bollards to stop cars from parking there. Public in attendance at the meeting were also asked for their opinion and seven out of eight voted to completely fill in the parking areas. Proposal to repair back the Green was approved (5 in favour, 1 abstained). Signs to be put up to advise on other parking facilities around the village and Stan Burton to take measurements of the area and pass to the Clerk to get quotes for soil.

***Repairs to the Green.*** Two quotes had been obtained to repair the Green. One was for £250 including VAT and other did not give a price. Proposal to go with first quote was approved (6 in favour). Parish Council will pay for the repairs and then invoice David Tranmer who has been made aware.

***Volunteer Meet and Greet Day.*** This will be held on Saturday 25 April between 10am and 12.30pm. The Parish Council will provide the latest copy of minutes and agenda coming up. Also brief synopsis of each councillor and information on the Community Car Scheme.

***Solar Farm update.*** Doug Irons is currently in talks with representative to arrange a face to face meeting regarding this. Ideas provided from member of public regarding what to do with the

possible funds include electric car charging point in village hall car park, replacing main lighting in village hall to LED (saving energy) and grant towards renovation of windmill (changing old production of energy). The Clerk to put out onto social media for more ideas. The funding is potentially coming this way. It is not a guarantee but ideas are welcome.

***Community Car update.***

Application for funding has been submitted. David Taylor to take on Community Car Co-ordinator role and the Clerk to purchase six Highway Codes for the drivers. Proposal to purchase these was approved (6 in favour).

***Approval of policies.*** The following policies require approval: IT Policy (new policy), Safeguarding Policy (new policy), Publication Scheme (new policy), Reserves Policy (new policy), Health & Safety Policy (annual review), Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy (annual review), Anti-Bullying and Harassment Guide (annual review), Disciplinary Policy (annual review) and Complaints Procedure (annual review). Proposal to approve was agreed (6 in favour).

***Internal Audit.*** Quote received from a recommended internal auditor. It was £200 to carry out a thorough review of governance and financials with

recommendations if necessary. Extra charge of 45p per mile if required to travel. No other quotes received back but need to have this audit to cover the External Audit. Proposal to agree was approved (6 in favour).

*Approval of Asset of Asset Register Appendix B.* Proposal to agree was approved (6 in favour).

*Footpath along the Green/pothole refill outside shop.* Three quotes had been provided, one for £3650 excluding VAT, another for £9840 including VAT and a third for approximately £8000. Proposal to go with first quote was approved (6 in favour). Will be in receipt of a refund from NCC from Parish Partnership scheme of £3127 and this will be used to go towards the repairs.

*Embankment outside Hargham Road Cottages.* Letter created to send to residents regarding the further requirements for drainage.

*Parish Council meetings for next twelve months.* These will be on Thursday 2 April, Wednesday 6 May, Thursday 4 June, Annual Parish Meeting Saturday 13 June, Thursday 2 July, Thursday 6 August, Thursday 3 September, Thursday 1 October, Thursday 5 November, Thursday 3 December, Thursday 7 January 2027, Thursday 4 February 2027 and Thursday 4 March 2027.

*Items for next agenda.* These are expected to include Use of Green

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Application, Ottomer Pond, Crown Road parking and repairs, repairs to the Green, Solar Farm update, Hargham Road Cottages and update on footpath along Green. *The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 2 April in Old Buckenham Village Hall at 7.30pm.*

## CQC Inspection Report

*Charlie McDowell, the Practice Manager at East Harling and Kenninghall Medical Practice would like to provide an update regarding the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report for the Practice, which has recently been published on the CQC website.*

The report refers to the inspection process that began on 31 January

2024, with the on-site inspection taking place on 26 June 2024, when the Surgery was visited by three CQC inspectors and a CQC Medicines Inspector.

Following the inspection, there was a significant delay before the report was produced. During this period, we received only occasional communication from CQC advising that the delay was due to technical challenges, including issues generating reports. A draft report was eventually received in August 2025, more than 14 months after the on-site inspection.

After reviewing the draft report, the Practice identified a number of factual inaccuracies and submitted a detailed response to CQC. We also raised a formal complaint about the length of time taken to produce the report. Our Patient Participation Group (PPG) supported the Practice during this process and submitted a letter on behalf of our patients.

In January 2026, CQC confirmed that our complaint would be partially upheld following their investigation. Feedback addressing the concerns raised about the report was then received in February 2026, with several of the inaccuracies acknowledged by CQC. However, the final report was published on the same day

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this feedback was issued, without adjustments for these inaccuracies.

While inspections are an important part of maintaining high standards across healthcare services, we want to reassure our patients that the recently published report attempts to reflect the Practice as it was at the time of the inspection in June 2024, and does not represent the Surgery as it is today.

Since the inspection, we have made significant progress across the Practice. We have strengthened our clinical team by recruiting four Salaried GPs who are now well established alongside our Partners. We also have a highly effective non-clinical support team, and we continue to focus on improving the services we provide to our patients. Our Patient Participation Group has recognised the positive changes that have been made and continues to share this message within the wider patient community. In particular, they have highlighted the significant improvements in patient access to appointments.

Patient feedback remains extremely positive and we are committed to continuing to build on this progress to ensure we deliver safe, effective and accessible care for everyone registered at the Practice.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **Bucks Photoshow is coming.**

The tenth biennial Bucks Photoshow will take place from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 May at New Buckenham Village Hall. It's a wonderful opportunity for people from both Old and New Buckenham to share their photographs with the public. It welcomes photographers of all abilities, and especially encourages anyone who has never exhibited before.

For £20 you rent an 8ft by 4ft display board on which you can arrange however many photographs you wish. It's your space. If you can't fill a board, you're welcome to share with another photographer.

You put up your pictures before the show opens on Friday evening and take them down after it closes on Sunday lunchtime. It's entirely up to you whether you offer your work for sale.

We would be very pleased to hear from local photographers who have not exhibited before but may be interested. Please email Sonya ([photoshow@newbuckenham.net](mailto:photoshow@newbuckenham.net)) and you'll be sent full guidance notes.

## **Village Hall news.**

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 4 March. Those present were Chair



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Gina Stanfield, Secretary Ian Coyle, Hall manager and Booking clerk Stacey Reed, Alison Frank, Teresa Kemp, Pete Twissell, Tracey Hayden, Graham Dye, Jay Lucas and Jenny Devaux. Apologies had been received from Chris Dalton and Eileen Oliver. Minutes of last meeting were agreed and signed. Theresa Kemp has kindly agreed to take on the role of vice chair. The hall needs to look to recruit volunteers for help with marshalling events, helping with the bar setting up for events, etc. Chair will put a notice in the village newsletter and on social media asking for volunteers. The Hall AGM will be held next month. Accounts have been passed over to Pete Twissell for auditing. Final accounts will be presented at

AGM next month.

Waste bin collection renewal is due next month and there has been a slight increase in fee.

The Parish council will need to move their May meeting date due to the local elections taking place and the Village Hall being used as a polling station. The committee agreed move their meeting to the following week to allow the Parish Council to have theirs on the Wednesday.

For future events a murder mystery evening will be discussed and the secretary will look at trying to put together a programme of monthly talks and the vice-chair will look into a film night.

Laura (the web designer for the new village hall website) can host the new website for £23 a month,

the committee agreed to this. Ian, Teresa and Tracey will represent the village hall at the 'meet and greet' event on Saturday 25 April. The committee would like to kindly remind village residents that the Village Hall and car park is not funded via council tax. All funding for the running and maintenance of the hall, car park and grounds is raised by the village hall through room hire, events and donations. The new website was very kindly funded by the Parish Council through their Precept Grant scheme. The Players have unplugged the hearing loop, it can be plugged back in if needed.

It was proposed that after the AGM the committee will have planning meeting to discuss how best to take the hall forward in the coming year. The next meeting will be at 6pm on Wednesday 8 April followed by the Planning meeting.

### **Your ideas needed**

Old Buckenham Parish Council is currently exploring how to best utilise a potential community fund of £36,000 from the local solar farm development. While these funds are not yet guaranteed, we are proactively gathering ideas to ensure we have a clear, community-backed

plan ready. The solar company requires specific information on how the parish intends to use the money before any final agreements are reached and the money must go towards something that will benefit the entire community.

The Parish Council was offered a choice between ten annual instalments of £3,600 or a single one-off payment of £36,000. We believe the one-off payment is the superior option, as it allows us to fund a significant project that will provide a lasting benefit for the entire community.

We have already begun a list of potential projects, including: Contributions towards a new cemetery.

Installing electric vehicle (EV) charging bays at the Village Hall. Replacing the Village Hall lighting with modern, low-energy LED lighting.

Providing a grant towards the renovation of the Windmill.

Do you have a different vision for how this money could benefit our village? We are strictly in the "idea-gathering" phase and welcome all suggestions that serve the public good. You can send your suggestions by email to [clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk). Or you can write a letter or note and post into the bottom post box

next to the Village Hall front door. Please mark all correspondence "For the attention of Megan Elvin." We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can improve Old Buckenham for everyone.

## Lilies in All Saints

Remember that the flower arrangements using around 150 lilies will be around to all to pop in to All Saints and see after the Easter Sunday service on Sunday 5 April.

## Waiting to sing

The Old Buckenham Singers, since starting in November 2021 has gone from strength to strength and has now reached full capacity. Therefore, they have

had to make the difficult decision to open a waiting list for anyone wishing to join in the future. They are a well-being singing group and meet every Tuesday in the Methodist Chapel. Contact Jill on 07756 233064 or [JillStevenson.iron@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:JillStevenson.iron@hotmail.co.uk) for any enquiries.

## Murder in our Village Hall

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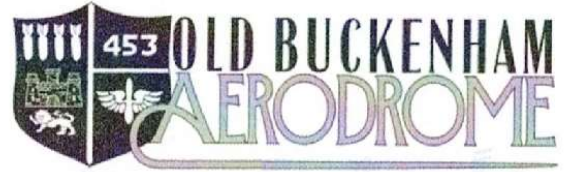
**Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261**

## Diary dates for April

*Here are details of some of the events going on in the village this month*

Thursday 2	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 5	Lilies on display in All Saints
Wednesday 8	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Thursday 9	Social Circle, Village Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Monday 13	Shelf pop-up shop at Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am
Saturday 18	Church Prize and Cash Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm
Saturday 19	Windmill open for tours, 1pm to 4pm
Monday 20	Copy date for May newsletter
Thursday 23	Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 25	Meet village organisations, Village Hall, 10am to 12.30pm
Monday 27	Shelf pop-up shop at Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School Bookshop open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays between 10am and 4pm, the Fawns (for parents and their pre-school children) in the Village Hall each Friday morning in term time from 9am to 10.30am, the Old Buckenham Singers in the Methodist Church every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm and the village Youth Club meets on Fridays in the Methodist Church at 6.30pm.



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