

Old Buckenham Newsletter



July 2025



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This month's newsletter is sponsored by Cynthia and Stan Burton in memory of their parents Bridget and Dennis

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. You can now book for 2026 if you like as all the remaining months this year are taken. Should you have a special occasion that you wish to celebrate you may be able to share a month with someone else.

Front cover illustration

The picture on this month's newsletter was found amongst the belongings of John (The Boy from Rod Alley) Loveday by his daughter Sarah Brunsden. It appears to be a careful cutting taken from the Eastern Daily Press. The artist of this pen and watercolour drawing was Andrew Dodds who was at one time principal lecturer at the Suffolk School of Art and Design and a regular contributor of drawings to the EDP. Sharon felt it was such a beautiful depiction of the schoolrooms, now the home of the Old School Bookshop and Cafe.

Full to the brim

For the second month running, the newsletter editor has found

himself with more text than is possible to fit into this newsletter. Much of it has been 'official' reports on important meetings so you'll have to wait until August to find out what Red Van Man has been saying or the latest on our Donald's adventures.

Working on the Green

This is a shortened version of the talk given by Sally Honour at the Annual Parish Meeting. I'd like to thank John Fernihough. Many of you will know John as the former Chair of the Greens Working Party. His dedication, commitment and passion for the Green has left a lasting legacy. When John stepped down, the remaining members stayed, and I am honoured to have taken on the role of Chair for what is now

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

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

the newly-formed Green Working Committee.

It is supported by a small but enthusiastic team of volunteers made up of two Parish Councillors, two Green Right holders, and two members of the parish (Richard Lindner and myself) with Megan Elvin supporting us as the clerk of our committee.

Our aims are many. To give you, the public, greater transparency around how your Precept — that's your local tax contribution — is being used on the Green. To produce regular Green Summary Reports — these are the minutes of our meetings, and they're available for anyone who's interested. To recommend a maintenance plan for the Green that balances resident wishes with conservation, wildlife, and environmental concerns. To keep you updated on all scheduled works — so you're never left wondering what's happening out there!

To forecast a three-year budget, helping us set the right Precept amount to support our plans. To keep the Old Buckenham Parish Council informed if anything changes from our agreed path. And finally, to explore grant and funding opportunities to support and enhance the Green even further.



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We aim to meet every two months and our next one will be on Thursday 10 July.

Since forming, we have tendered for the cutting of the Green. So far this year, we've had two cuts, one full cut at the end of March, and a more selective cut at the end of May where the larger area have been left allowing the wildflowers to bloom. We've planned two more full-area cuts, one at the end of July, and another at the end of September. We're still learning, and trying to strike the right balance between what's financially practical, environmentally responsible, and welcomed by the community. Our goal is to finalise the cutting plan for 2026 by this



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August. If the plan looks significantly different from this year's it will be put back out to tender.

One of our wonderful volunteers has carried out a full bench survey. It turns out there are 15 benches and some of them are in need of a little TLC. We are hoping to get these repaired over the coming months.

And thanks to our volunteers again, we've removed runners from the trees down Crown Road and quite a bit of deadwood from the Green. Some of that wood has been saved for a exciting project of building a bug hotel with the help of our local schools. It's a great way to combine conservation with education.

We have set up a Facebook page to keep you informed of our plans and volunteering days and an email address for you to get in touch.

There's still plenty more planned and if you're curious, or keen to get involved, please do come and see us. We're always looking for extra hands, whether it's for physical volunteering or behind-the-scenes help. In fact, we're especially keen to find people who might have experience, or just the time and energy, to help us seek out and apply for grants. These can make a real difference to how we manage and enhance our Green.

And finally, please remember we are volunteers doing our best so if you have any concerns contact us

directly. We will get back to you and we will listen. Let's make sure we work together to make sure our village Green remains a space we're all proud of.

Construction gets started

The weather radar is being built on the Anglian Water-owned site in Abbey Road. Work has started and the radar is anticipated to be fully operational by early summer 2026.

The new radar will not only deliver significant benefits to the people of Norfolk but also the UK as a whole, enhancing the accuracy of weather forecasts, improving flood warning information and lead-time prediction to mitigate the devastating effects of flooding on the lives and businesses.

Jointly funded by the Met Office and the Environment Agency, this major infrastructure project will provide more accurate rainfall observations for the East Anglia region and also aims to boost the radar network coverage further to the east.

The radar network is essential for planning and mitigating the impacts of extreme rainfall in our changing climate. The new radar will contribute to improvements in forecast accuracy and rainfall data. While rain gauges provide important point measurements, weather radars offer a better

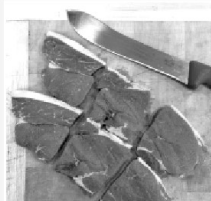
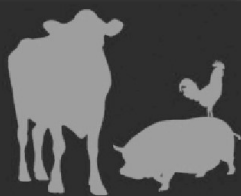
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spatial representation of rainfall. Radars can track storms in real-time, including those moving inland from the sea and intense thunderstorms developing locally or moving in from the continent on hot days.

East Anglia currently lacks the quality of weather radar coverage seen elsewhere in England. This new radar will increase the accuracy of measurements for storms arriving from the east, such as Storm Babet in October 2023. The average benefit from improved radar measurements in East Anglia is estimated to be around £1 million per annum due to flood damage avoidance.

Our village Produce Show

This will take place on Sunday 7 September at the Village Hall. Exhibits need to be deposited between 9.30am and 11am. The Show opens to the public from 2pm and prize giving is at 4pm. The Show schedule was circulated in last month's newsletter. Electronic copies are available by emailing residentsofoldbuckenham@hotmail.com.

The organisers hope there is something to entice everyone to enter. There are classes for baking, preserves, floral arrangements, handicraft, art, and fruit and vegetables, plus

dedicated children's and teens sections.

And remember that all are welcome to attend, even if you are not exhibiting. There will be tea, coffee and cakes for you to enjoy plus a tombola to give you all a chance to go home with a prize.

Services in July

Tuesday 1 July

10am Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

Sunday 6 July

10am Group Holy Communion at St Marys, Eccles (no service at All Saints)

Wednesday 9 July

7.30pm A time for quiet reflection, led by a lay member of All Saints Church

Sunday 13 July

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 20 July

9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer

Sunday 27 July

9.30 Holy Communion

Primary School Fete

Why not go along to the school on Saturday 5 July to enjoy their Fete. It opens at 11am and goes on until 3pm. Among the attractions are face painting, tractor rides, pony petting, a bubble hut and lots more other stalls for you to enjoy. Catering is being done by the Wild Thing Gourmet Burger Company. Pop along and support them.

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Filling the Memorial Room

It was great to see so many people at the recent meeting of the Old Buckenham Social Circle. It was the most visitors they have ever had! The speakers were from the American Memorial Library that exists at the back of the ground floor of the main Library at the Forum in Norwich. They were speaking about how the Library came to be formed as a memorial to all the thousands of young Americans that died while serving in the American Airforce during World War II. The Social Circle was able to give a donation of £30 from group funds (which were boosted by the charge made to visitors) to the speakers so maybe they'll be able to buy another book or two for their wonderful collection of American books.

A reminder to all members that the July meeting will be at the home of

Barbara and John Frost in Mill Road. A warm welcome to Ian who has joined as a member and if you know of any visitors who came along to Thursday's or to previous meetings and have expressed a wish to become regular members, please let Alison Hannah know so that she can extend the invitation to the garden party to them too.

The Alternative Quiz

On Saturday 24 May the Quiz Masters welcomed 31 people across eight teams to the Old Buckenham Methodist Church for the fifth Old Buckenham Alternative Quiz.

A varied mix of rounds and question styles including pictures and audio, entertained the participants as they strived to win and claim the 2025 Trophy. After taxing their brains on TV Dingbats, General Knowledge, A Load of Balls, What a Character and

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Hearing Voices; the quizzers were rewarded with some much-needed refreshments. This was accompanied by a handout round, aptly named Food for Thought, midway through the evening, before entering the fray for the final push for glory.

The second half proved equally challenging as the first with a variety of brain teasers, such as Jane Austen and her Novels, National Animals, Formula 1, Odd One Out, followed by the concluding music round Brief Introductions.

The results proved to be extremely close with the first and second teams being only one point apart. The glory and the trophy were won by, 'The Servants of the Lady Ottoline', with second place awarded to 'Four of a Kind'. A raffle was also held with all proceeds being donated to St Martin's Housing Trust and the Old Buckenham Youth Club, which has

recently been set up and is being run in the Methodist Church on Friday nights.

The Quiz Masters would like to thank everyone for their support and their generous participation in the raffle which raised £233.

The hosts hope the entrants enjoyed the quiz evening as much as they did. They thank you again for your participation and contributions to the fund-raising efforts and hope to see you all again next year.

Ideas for entertainment

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to put on more events in the Village Hall and would welcome ideas for weekend and/or evening events. If you have any ideas on events that you would like to see or would fill up the hall please make contact by email to events.obvh@gmail.com

Thank you.



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Village Hall news

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 4 June. Those present were Acting chair Jay Lucas, Minute secretary for the meeting, Pete Twissell, Treasurer Graham Dye, Tracey Hayden, Alison Frank, Teresa Kemp and Ian Coyle. Apologies were received from Jenny Devaux, Terry Cook, Eileen Oliver, Stacey Reed and Gina Stanfield. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by all present and signed by the acting chair.

Car parking charges are to be reviewed. Much of the current PTA committee will be moving on as their children leave the primary school. This subject will be revisited when the new PTA committee is in place. The cost of rebuilding the hall for insurance purposes has been set at £1.8 million, inclusive of VAT.

Stacey Reed's husband has offered to fit replacement wall mounted ashtrays by both halls outside entrances. Manhole covers in the

car park have been repaired or replaced. An additional manhole adjacent to the north-west corner of the hall needs to be re-instated. A welcome was extended to Ian Coyle who has kindly offered his services as secretary for future meetings. It was noted that trusteeship is optional for committee members, subject to the minimum number of trustees being maintained. The minimum number has yet to be established and Jay Lucas will enquire. Also the Management Committee needs to arrange a mechanism for the hall manager to make small purchases without encumbering the treasurer with the business of sourcing, purchasing and receiving deliveries. It is intended to open the hall for the Airshow weekend (Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July) so that people can come to the area behind the hall and watch the aircraft displays. Volunteers will be needed to serve refreshments inside the hall as last year.

The Village Hall Facebook page is offline, having been taken down as a result of malicious allegations of fraud. It is not clear what, if anything, can be done to redress this issue.

The microphone/PA system is functioning intermittently and this is to be investigated further.

Those committee members who do not wish to continue as trustees will

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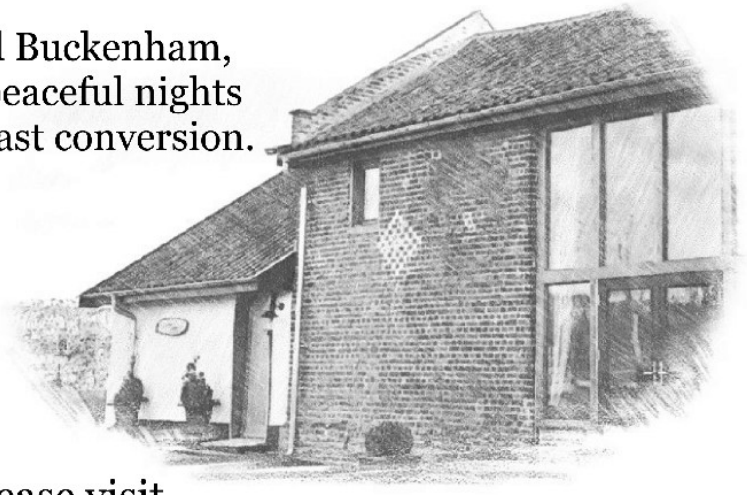
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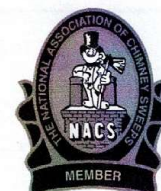
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need to be removed from the list. A query was passed on from Terry Cook as to the location of the documents containing the Hall's policies and procedures. These documents have been located. The treasurer has requested a renewal quote from the solicitors that were contacted in June last year about the transfer of the property to the new CIO. Unfortunately, the lady dealing with this is on annual leave and so will not have any news on this until June his year.

An email received from MW White said that they will be withdrawing the paper recycling service in the car park as it is no longer profitable. They have given three months' notice and the bin will be removed at the end of August this year. The income that we receive from this is around £250 per year via claims that are made to Breckland Council following the collections.

On the income received since the last meeting, we have received £1,879 in letting income as well as the amounts promised from the Parish Council and the Paul Bassam Charitable Trust for the curtains at £700 and £2,000 respectively. Costs meanwhile were £286 for water rates for the six months up to May, £180 for the buildings insurance report, £204 for electricity use for the month of

April and £336 for cleaning/£160 for gardening.

Stacey Reed has had a walk round of the building and introduction to the booking system. Hallmaster will provide online training. She will also meet with a new hirer, giving her some insight into the process of making bookings.

The contractor who fitted the new curtains will come back to fit the missing weights. The invoice for the curtains has been questioned and will be reviewed.

A new letterbox has been supplied and fitted by the Parish Council, for use by both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee. The old box is to be removed. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 July.

Parish Council minutes

These notes on the Parish Council meeting are produced by the newsletter editor from the draft minutes and may contain information that is changed at a later date.

Old Buckenham Parish Council met on Thursday 5 June at Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Steve Gowers, David Taylor and Pete Twissell.

Also attending were Megan Elvin

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 Megan Elvin
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(Clerk) and Donna Oakley (RFO) as well as six members of the public. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 May were approved (6 in favour).

Financial matters. Community account balance was now £30,523.50. Payments of £3,092.51 were approved and which included payment to solicitors, for digger hire, subscription to NALC, council insurance as well as the community car drivers.

AGAR forms are to be signed. There were no issues with the accounts but will not be signed off until Jonn Hicks has been sentenced. He was due to be sentenced next week but this has not happened. This delay will increase the fine for late delay.

Councillor's reports. Naomi Bailey said that a social media post circulating is badly worded.

Complaints are not disturbing the parish council and it is the council's job to respond to the complaints. Steve Gowers gave news on the

Almshouses. The work on the roof will commence in June and take eight weeks. There may be some inconvenience on the local roads but residents have been made aware of this. With the Community speed watch he is trying to find out what we can do and has written to police commissioning office.

Unable to get a speed sign with a face on it as Norfolk ban them.

Doing one hour a week on Cake Street and an average of twenty cars are reported for speeding.

Lesley Evison has looked at the jubilee trees. Two looked like they are dying but there are some new shoots halfway down. Others are looking fit and healthy. The Green Working Committee should be having someone go round to look at trees and will ask them to look at the jubilee trees as well.

The Clerk said phone calls had been had with the owner of the goal post currently on the Green and they will be completing a use of Green application form. She had ordered and received the new adult pads for the Village Hall defibrillator and the child pads for Village Hall and defibrillator at the Ox and Plough. The recent defibrillator training mentioned starter kits that we should have so she has ordered three of these for all the defibrillators.

The new post box is up at the Village Hall. If this is to be used for

both the Village Hall and the Parish Council, then the old one will need to be taken down or a new sign put on the new one as it could be confusing for the post man with two post boxes. An email has been sent to the solar company regarding the lump sum funding but yet to hear back from them.

New planning application. Hill Farm, Leys Lane. Proposed two storey & single storey side extension, erection of porch and bay window (PL/2025/0725/HOU). There were no issues and council voted (5 in favour) to support this application. *(David Taylor arrived at 19.49).*

Green Working Committee update. The wayleave money has gone over to Parish Council for the Green Working Committee. Having a bench on the middle of the Green would affect the cutting so this has been declined. There are enough benches around the Green to not warrant one in the middle. When they took on Prince Harry's Wood it was mutually agreed an extra £500. Then there was an issue with Prince Harry's Wood and an extra bit of land but this has now been sorted. Would like to put forward to have the extra £500. Doug Irons asked if the committee had put up the three-year plan for all of the outgoings. At this point they have not been able to estimate due to the current state of

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We are a friendly group of women of all ages and welcome new members and visitors to come and see us. For more information please contact:

Betty Stacey on 01953 454790

or email us on
oldbuckenhamwi@gmail.com



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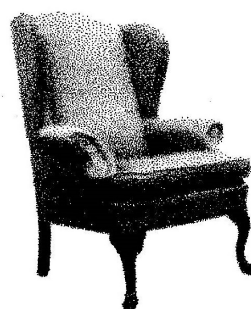
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the Green putting costs up for this year, they cannot say exactly how much it would cost. Another reason for not receiving the £500 is due to the issues with old Clerk the Council decided to keep the fund the same for this year. At the moment, cannot do anything with Prince Harry's Wood without more funding.

Two more trees on the Green need to come down, two ash trees that have complete ash die back and are too large to cut without professional help. Opportunity to sell the felled wood at a discounted price to get money back into GWC. Bench survey – one by the village sign that needs to be removed. It is rusted and the wood rotten. It is also right by the edge of the road. Stan Burton suggested that it's taken down and if someone wants to put a bench there it can be put further back and turned round to face the other way to look onto the Green, rather than onto the road.

Lloyds Bank update. Paperwork that was filled in months ago now, did eventually make it. Asked for everyone to have internet access and some of the card readers have already come through.

Allotment update. Lesley Evison had been down to the allotments and had a brief look. Sent out apologies to the allotment holders for the lapse of communication.

Would like to ask for an extension until the end of October as allotment holder has pumpkins on her plot for school children.

Advised that this should not be a problem. May also need to hire an extra skip for the clearance.

One allotment holder asked several questions. Before the decision was made to close the allotments – did anyone speak to the landlord about the potential closure? She had spoken to farm owner who was disappointed that we are leaving. Had he have been approached by the council they may have been in agreement to help with security and gates. Got the impression that the farm owner was never approached to find alternative solutions. Feels sad that over the years the Parish Council has not invested in the allotments. Have also had yet another break in this last week. Was offended at the wording of the letter regarding the clearing of the plots otherwise they may be charged by the parish.

The Chair said they did try to maintain the allotment and tried to get people interested and a large amount of money was put down on this occasion. But those that did take on allotments did not remain due to lack of maintenance. At the moment it is costing us more to keep the allotments and not even breaking even. It was never a

money-making scheme. Can't be spending more money on it and not getting the amount back.

Clarification of insurance. Parish Council have gone for a 3-year contract with the insurance company. The cost for the first year has come down to £884.31 from £914. The increase for next year should not be too extreme by going for the 3-year contract. We questioned the hirer's liability as this was not included on the insurance. The Hirer's liability is only for hiring buildings/property. It does not cover land. So, we wouldn't need this ourselves. We just must make sure the hirers of the Green have their own insurance – they carry out risk assessments before and after and return the land back to the way it was before they used it. For example, any holes created in the Green need to be refilled to avoid a trip hazard, etc.

We already make sure those that use the Green have their own insurance and do risk assessments, so we are therefore covered. The clerk to check insurance on playground if Steve Gowers does any maintenance himself. Will he be covered?

Update on charities. Naomi Bailey has been in touch with the Charities Commission and is in the process of updating the trustees. Will then liaise with Donna Oakley

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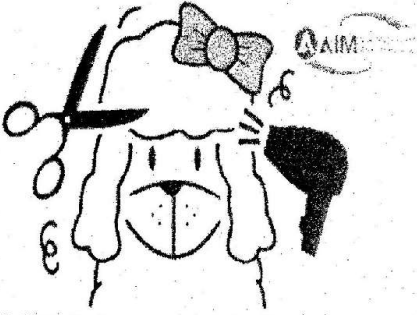
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regarding getting the returns done.
Update on playground and parking. Megan Elvin and Steve Gowers had a meeting with Luke from NCC Highways at the beginning of May.

It will cost the council several thousands of pounds to have the speed limit changed. We would have to go through a survey to see if a speed change would be warranted and it's based on how many accidents have occurred on that road. We are allowed to put "No Parking" signs on the fence of the playground as this is our property. We are unable to put any other signs anywhere else on the road advising of a playground because it does not meet the criteria for visibility.

Luke suggested white "H" Lines going across the entry way of the playground to stop cars parking directly in front of the gate, this will allow a larger view gap at the entrance. We have missed the deadline for issuing this as part of the bulk lining for the current bulk order of road lines so Luke will add it onto the next bulk order that they give the contractors later this year.

Chicanes will be a very expensive option to go into. Suggested we start with the lines and the no parking signs on the fence and then if the problem is still ongoing the council can look into the costs



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of chicanes. Cost of parking signs is £70 each. These will need to be bolted to the fence. A proposal to buy signs was approved (7 in favour). Also will need to start looking at updating the playground equipment.

Churchyard update. Still no further forward with this. Had suggested a meeting with the three charities to know who owns what bit of land but this was cancelled due to lack of attendees. The meeting will just be to know about what areas of land is owned by which charity. Naomi Bailey and Steve Gowers to arrange sending out an email asking who thinks which piece of land is which.

Ottomer Pond. Couple of quotes for putting in a silt trap at Ottomer Pond end of drainage pipe came as £950 and £1116.68. Stan Burton said costing to build ourselves would be £142.59 for materials, scaffolding to go round the pipe and gravel can be free. He asked why we can't just build it ourselves. The chamber at the other end will have to be built professionally as this will bear the weight of vehicles. Doug Irons agreed that we should go through the 'do it yourself' plan and this was approved (5 in favour).

Breckland Council will be chased about the chamber and the piping as they were the ones to make the error in the first place. Stephen Halls from legal flood authority involved. The Parish Council do not have the

money to foot the bill as it is not our drain or land that it is on and should let the estate agents aware that are trying to sell the property that the chamber is on.

Amended TWT lease agreement. Had documentation from the Ice Queen to allow her the use of trading on the Green for TWT. To be agreed in principle until updated liability insurance for the Ice Queen has been renewed and received. This was agreed (7 in favour)

School parking. A suggestion was given by a member of the public that when Chapel Green was built there was access from Chapel Green to the primary school field. Stipulation was originally stated that this should not be used as an access. There will be more issues with parking soon when Chapel Green have new students starting and they have run out of parking themselves. High School will be tarmacking their land in the summer to hopefully alleviate parking on Abbey Road as it is mainly staff parking there. The posts on Reggie's way are only stopping cars parking on the Green. They can still park on the track but access cannot be obstructed. The Village Hall car park is often full and there are still cars trying to park in there without a permit. Some parents are rude when being asked not to park in

certain places.

The Gamekeeper has offered their car park up for parents. This information was given to the schools so they should be passing the information onto the parents. The pub owner is only offering up his car park for the school drop off times.

Pressure washer. The chair of Green Working Committee has asked if we might consider buying a pressure washer to clean the village signs. The Parish Council did not believe this is a necessity as one can be borrowed.

Public participation. A parishioner asked if there was going to be some other publicity for the AGM the following Saturday.

Notification to be added onto the Facebook groups

Items for next agenda. These are expected to include parking update, ongoing work on Ottomer Pond, positioning of Christmas tree and further updates on Solar Farm, Green Working Committee, Lloyds banking and the co-option of a new councillor.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 3 July at Old Buckenham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Annual Parish meeting

Old Buckenham Parish Council held its Annual Parish meeting on Saturday 7 June at the Village Hall.

This was a chance for members of the public to find out what has been going on at County, District and Parish levels over the last twelve months.

There was not a large audience so the editor has tried to sum up what important things were discussed.

Naomi Bailey welcomed the residents and introduced our new Parish Council Clerk Megan Elvin. First to talk was Sally Honour who chairs the Green Working Committee and whose speech is reported at the start of this newsletter on page 1.

Keen to speak to those that have experience or have time to help seek and apply for grants.

Next was District and Council Councillor Steve Askew. He explained that it was a big time for potential changes in Local Government. At the moment government has put out to the councils to submit preferred options as to what they see fit on how councils should be made up in the future. For instance a large singular Council for Norfolk and Suffolk.

The present Breckland Council supports a three tier system. Everything is business as usual at the moment. First appraisals were submitted in March and by September this year their final views need to be submitted.

After this it will be the minister that makes a decision.

Next year should be elections for a Mayor (uncertain if this is going ahead as of yet) and he would like the public to get involved with devolution and their views on it. All information can be found on Breckland website. Should devolution go ahead, it is Steve's view that Council Tax may increase to cover the changes. Better year for local issues due to being a dryer year. Potholes not too bad, no major flooding issues. Last August we had a new highways officer appointed to our area who has been helpful and picked up a lot of errors from the previous officer.

Some drainage issues in the village have been resolved while others ongoing. One drain on the B1077 is being championed as a priority for next year.

Getting information for a 30mph extension on Fen street is not an easy task. An assessment of size, speed and number of cars on the road took place just before Easter. Was not happy with how and where this was done and has asked for them to do it again.

Breckland Council have also been asked to submit their views and preferred options on devolution.

The 'Pop up pantry' comes to the Village Hall on Wednesday

mornings and feedback is well received and doing good. As well as cheaper food being available it works with partner organisations which help pick up where people may have other issues and hopefully get the right authorities involved to help. It is funded by Breckland and Norfolk community foundations.

The Prince Harry's Wood transfer has been completed over to Old Buckenham Parish Council.

The Breckland local plan has put in an increase of new housing targets and this is 45% for Breckland. They have to find 903 dwellings per annum, a large increase of new housing and there will be more. They want to work with the community to find areas for the new houses to be built. It is important that the Parish takes a hands-on approach to this and help find more suitable areas for the new housing to be built. Rather than letting Breckland do it themselves.

Local plan should be across 18 years (April 2024 to March 2042). Not able to put a number on how many houses will be built in Old Buckenham and whether once this number is met if there will be no further houses built.

Most parishes in the district should expect to see some development.

Eileen Oliver then gave a report on the Village Hall. It has been through a trying time this year; half the committee moved away or resigned. Have now managed to build the committee back up again. Up and running for now but main problem for the future is now paying a manager and paying for cleaners. Bookings are just about covering everything at the moment. Will begin to struggle to manage the hall and to keep it functioning as it is now. Need the villagers to put forward ideas for fund raising events. Hall has been run for many years and can run for 15 months with no immediate effect as there are enough reserves. Around 95% of money comes from lettings from regular people.

Naomi Bailey gave her report as Chair of the Parish Council. There have been significant changes to the council due to reasons beyond their control. Significant criminal activity took place which the council were not aware of. The previous Clerk stole the precept from the Council and this did not come to light until the August 2024

At the time of this we could not inform the public due to it being in the hands of the police.

Someone that we trusted did this and now trying very hard to get back on track. Barclays has given the money back. We are almost

complete in setting up a new bank account. As a parish we have to go through certain bank accounts and procedures and this is almost sorted.

This issue has taken a large toll on the councillors but they are doing their best to get everything back on track.

Moved location of Christmas tree and it looked amazing. Big thanks to Harrow and Ferne for supplying the electricity.

New Green Working Committee formed which has taken a large amount of pressure off the Council. This is really appreciated.

Posts down Sunnyside to stop the parents parking on the Green for school drop off/pick up. Funded by the residents. Also the strip across the Green funded by the Parish Council. This is helping to preserve the green so big thanks to the residents for supporting this.

Other parking issues exist and are trying our best to sort this out.

Drainage works in the village. Luke at Highways has been a breath of fresh air and is always doing his best to give us an answer.

Solar farm which is on Attleborough Road. Entrances have been built but the main work is yet to begin. Lump sum funding being given to the council of £36,000 or £3,000 over 10 years. Council has decided to ask for the lump sum. Will then call another meeting of the village to get ideas on how to spend it.

Old Buckenham Community Car service

The following drivers are providing a service to take people to the doctors or to hospital appointments and can be contacted at:

Robin Curtis - 01953 860736

John Frost (Attleborough only) - 01953 860841

Lorna Gedge - 01953 860669

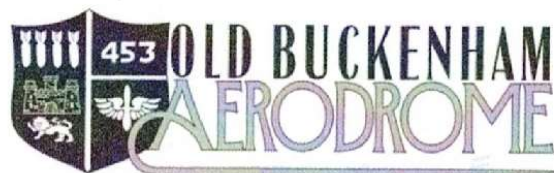
Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261

Diary dates for July

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

Tuesday 1	Coffee and chat, All Saints Church, 10.30am
Thursday 3	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 5	Primary School Fete, 11am to 3pm
Monday 7	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Wednesday 9	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Wednesday 9	Quiet time at All Saints Church. 7.30pm
Monday 16	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Sunday 20	Copy date for August newsletter
Sunday 22	Windmill open for tours, 1pm to 4pm
Thursday 24	Women's Institute, Village Hall. 7.30pm
Friday 25	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Saturday 27	Old Buckenham Airshow
Saturday 28	Old Buckenham Airshow

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, the village Youth Club meets on Fridays at the Methodist Church at 6.30pm and 7.30pm and the Shelf Pop Up Pantry is in the Village Hall Memorial Room every Wednesday from 9.30pm to 11.30am.



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