

Old Buckenham Newsletter



March 2025



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We thank Alison Frank for sponsoring this issue to celebrate some of her family birthdays.

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. You can now book for 2025 but the only remaining available months at the moment are May and August. Should you have a special occasion that you wish to celebrate you may be able to share a month with someone else.

The Village Hall needs you

Old Buckenham Village Hall has its AGM on Wednesday 2 April. The present committee would like to invite you to attend. They will have three vacancies to fill to ensure that the thriving committee can carry on its good work into the future. If you would like to talk to a committee member or ask questions about what membership involves please email the secretary with your phone number and you will be called back. Email your questions to maylodge7a@gmail.com
Thank you.

Letters and emails

The following plea has been received from an Old Buckenham resident: Where would we be without the village post office and stores? When I was a boy, growing up in Old Buckenham in the 60s and 70s, I can recall the village housing

six shops providing daily provisions, along with two petrol garages, a butcher, a bakery and, at the time, three pubs. These all had their place, providing a vital service to the local community.

Of course, nothing lasts forever and over the last half century we have witnessed massive change, particularly with technology-driven shopping. We order and pick a day to have our shopping delivered to our door from the armchair, enjoy and marvel at having parcels ordered one day and delivered in a matter of hours. Amazing! In times of crisis however, such as Covid and severe weather when our regular provision source is unobtainable, we are quick to rush to our local store for essentials and expect it to provide.

Now in 2025, only the Post Office Store survives, still providing a vital service to us. Whether it's for our

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>

weekly shop, daily paper or an odd bottle of milk, we would be lost without it. With the decline in the market towns and the banks leaving the high street, the post office is our sole option for withdrawals and deposits locally. With the constant stream of Amazon, Yodel, Evri....etc...etc parcels delivered to our door on a daily basis, thank heavens the village post office is there to process all our returns. We take our Post Office/Store for granted at our peril. Old Buckenham Post Office requires our support as much as we require its.

Unfortunately, inconsiderate and all-day parking around the shop frontage and in the pull-ins created for additional customer parking is having a significant and negative impact on the shops ability to function. Delivery vans can't get close enough to unload sensibly and potential customers continue driving past as there is no space to park. My plea is to all vehicle owners who frequent the Post Office or habitually park around the customer parking areas. Please think of the bigger picture and consider your parking habits with a view to assisting access for delivery vans and customers alike. Old Buckenham must retain its only store for all our benefits. Thank you.

Easter remembrance lilies

Once again, on Easter Day (Sunday 20 April), All Saints' Church will commemorate the lives of loved



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At each meeting we have refreshments with home-made cakes/biscuits, a raffle, and competitions. We also have a Book Group, Gardening Group, and Scrabble Meetings and a local Walk which is held most months.

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
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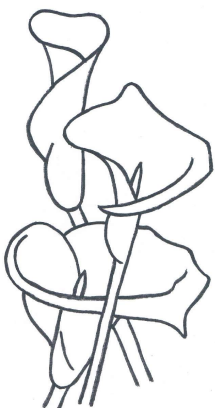
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ones who have died. Flower arrangements in the church at Easter will comprise of lilies each in memory of departed relatives or friends. If you would like to participate in this event by remembering loved ones please contact Mrs Sheila Freake (details below) before Sunday 6 April with your name/s and the name/s of the person/s to be remembered together with any donation you may wish to make to the Lily Fund. It is estimated that each lily will cost in the region of £5. Any additional money received will go towards the costs of ensuring that All Saints' Church is able to continue providing for the needs of the village. It needs funds to maintain services for regular worship and to provide a place where people can spend a quiet time. If you are a UK taxpayer you could increase your donation by 25% (at no extra cost to yourself) by placing it in



the yellow envelope provided at the church and completing the details. When completing these details please give only the taxpayer's name and address. Cheques should be made out to

Old Buckenham PCC.

Please contact Mrs S M Freake, 36 Hargham Road, Old Buckenham, NR17 1SL. Email sheilafreake@btinternet.com or ring 01953 860156 for more details. Many thanks for your past support when donations have achieved so

much and the departed have been remembered with affection.

Our new parish clerk

Hello all, my name is Megan Elvin. I started off my Local Authority career as a Benefits Assessment Officer



with Broadland District Council. In August 2023 I had my first child and decided to take a career break to stay home and look after him. After 18 months of being just "mum" I decided it was time to get back into the working age and was looking for a small local parish to take me on as their Clerk. Luckily for me, with only living in Attleborough, Old Buckenham Parish Council were willing to take me on. I am looking forward to furthering my career with the Parish Council and getting to know the community.

Exciting Spring evening

A second Clairvoyant night is being held at the Old Buckenham Village Hall with the Paul Bannister on Friday 28 March starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are only £10 per person. A bar and refreshments will be

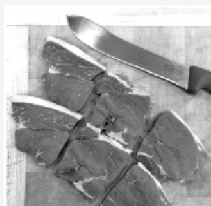
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available There may be tickets that can be bought on the night at the door but booking is recommended as the Hall was at capacity at the previous event.

To book visit

www.ticketsource.co.uk/old-buckenham-village-hall,

Bingo starts again

Church prize and cash Bingo starts again in the Village Hall on Saturday 8 March at 2pm. Raffle and refreshments, all very welcome. Donations of raffle prizes to Alison Frank would be very gratefully received.

Owls in village hall

On Friday 21 March at 7pm (doors open 6.30pm) there will be an illustrated talk by Mike Toms from the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) on 'Owls: a cultural history'. Tickets, cash/card, are a mere £5. Tea/coffee and biscuits.

All Saints March services

Sunday 2 March

10am Group service of Holy Communion at Quidenham (no service at Old Buckenham)

Wednesday 5 March

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 9 March

9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 12 March

7.30pm A time for Quiet and Reflection (see below for more

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All information provided will be treated confidentially and kept safely under the GDPR regulations;

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Residents are required to pay a Monthly Maintenance Contribution (MMC), currently standing at £378.75p per month.

This covers maintenance of all the buildings and any refurbishment and improvements the Trustees deem necessary, as well as the charity paying the water rates, buildings insurance, a panic alarm system (where needed) and television licence for qualifying applicants.

Trustees will have absolute discretion as to whether to allocate a home to any applicant, but will give priority to those considered to be in most need. In the event of more than one applicant having similar needs, preference will be given to an existing or previous resident of Old Buckenham.

Further information and an application pack can be requested by calling 01953 860457 or emailing admin@rcah.org.uk. Assistance completing the form can be provided if needed.

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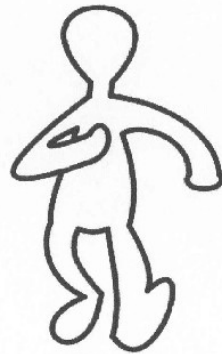
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information)

Sunday 16 March

9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 March

10am Joint service of Morning Prayer
at St Martin's New Buckenham (no
service at Old Buckenham)

Sunday 30 March

9.30am Holy Communion for
Mothering Sunday

On Wednesday 12 March the Church is holding the first of its new 'quiet time' events - these will be held on the second Wednesday of each month and you will be led in a short reflection, with time for prayer or just to be still and hopefully find a peaceful space, away from all the stresses of everyday life. There will be no expectation on those attending; you don't have to be a church member or even a professing Christian - just to have a desire to be open to the idea that as humans we have a spiritual side that needs time

to breathe. If you would like more information please contact David or Alison Hannah (thegables_2000@yahoo.co.uk).

Out on the Broads

Old Buckenham Women's Institute had an interesting talk from George Cooper on Thursday 23 January which was about the social history of the Broads. George is a volunteer at the Museum of the Broads and very enthusiastic about the history from when the Broads were created to the present day. Members learnt about the life of boatpeople in wherries, the Norfolk Barrow, quanting and smuggling. A very enjoyable evening.

Speeding in our Village

From Steve Gowers: I found the article in last month's Old Buckenham newsletter very interesting and well written. Fen Street is single track and the diversion was at best a mistake and at worst total incompetence.

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Following on from some of the comments we do need to keep the village safe for all our families.

Unfortunately Fen Street is not the only road that has cause for concern. In Cake Street 40 and 50 mph is not a rare speed. Hargham Road is not far behind that. We have people complaining about the speed of the traffic around The Green, Crown Road, Mill Road and if you stand at Attleborough Road as some vehicles approach the 30 mph you think they are coming in to land.

We now have the SAM sign working as it should and one of the Community Speed Watch volunteers has taken on the responsibility of downloading and analysing all the data. It is this data along with the Speed Watch reports that we need in order to put a case for whatever equipment is available to help slow the traffic. With regards to lowering the speed limit, I think we need to get traffic 'sticking' to existing speed limits first.

To collect more data, we need more volunteers and it can be just one hour

a week. I have been approached by someone who is not available during the week but can carry out speed watch duties at the weekend.

However we will need at least three people to get started. So if you feel strongly about the speed of cars, lorries and motorbikes through the village and cannot spare an hour during the week, how about an hour on Saturday morning?

Speeding through a village is not unique to Old Buckenham and I guess Highways and District councillors get plenty of emails from all the villages. But we can make it unique by setting up more speed watch sessions. I don't care if people start saying "Slow down through Old Buckenham, there are a load of Sados with nothing better to do than catch us speeding" if it makes the village safer.

If you would like to join the Community Speed Watch team or want more information please contact me, Steve Gowers, at pc99gowers@gmail.com



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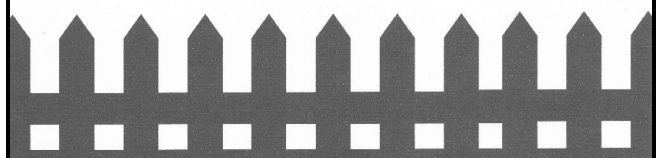
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"A Little Bundle of Times"

An illustrated talk about the restoration and history of an Old Buckenham Bible and entitled "A Little Bundle of Times" will be given by Jamin Wilson on Saturday 26 April in All Saints Church. The talk will be followed by refreshments in the Old School Bookshop and an opportunity to see the bible displayed alongside other rare and beautiful books restored by Mr Wilson.

This will be the only opportunity to see this beautiful church bible which was in use in the church from its publication in 1701 through to the mid-19th century. Recently re-discovered in poor condition, it has been restored by Jamin Wilson and is now in his private collection. His detailed research has uncovered some fascinating details about this edition of the bible and his dedicated restoration has brought this copy back to life.

There is no formal charge for entrance but donations (suggested £10 per person) towards refreshments costs and in support of All Saints Church are invited. To help with planning

please email thegables_2000@yahoo.co.uk to reserve a place.

Youth Group update

Thank you to those who have already responded with donations and volunteers coming forward. To remind you, a Youth Group is being set up in Old Buckenham for 10 to 16 year olds which will meet on Friday evenings at 6.30pm during term time. They could still do with more volunteers – more people are needed who would be willing to attend the sessions, even if it's just to be there to observe. The more volunteers the easier it will be to run, and there is no upper age limit.

Visiting speakers/leading activities – there have been some really great offers including motor bike engines and bushcraft, but they definitely need more. If you've got a hobby why not offer to share it with the young people. Donations – they are still looking for more books, board games, jigsaws, games consoles and games, indoor sports activities, bean bags, a sofa, bookcases, art and crafts materials as well as storage boxes. If you can help with any of these please email obyouthclub@gmail.com or call 01953 861207. Thank you.

On the road again

'Tales from the Motherland' is the latest play coming to Old Buckenham Village Hall. Following the success of last year's The Hollyhock Trilogy, you



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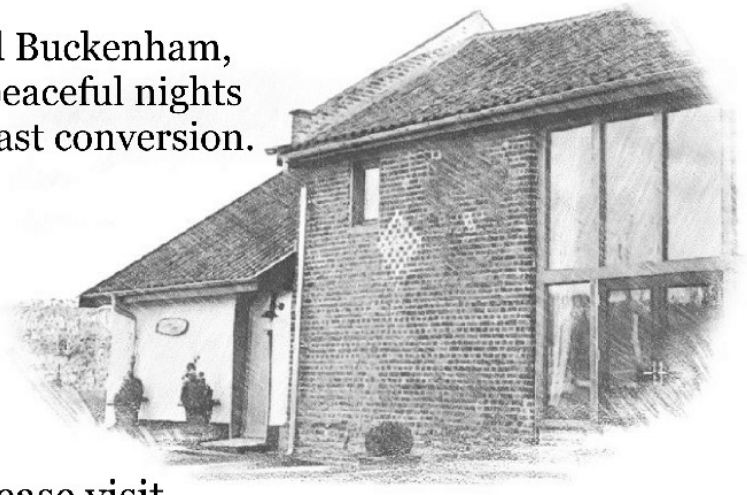
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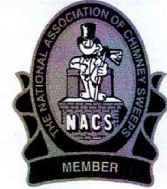
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can see three more darkly comic tales from writer Rob John. Starring Barbara Horne, Dawn Finnerty and Robin McLoughlin, the new show brings you three funny but poignant stories of three mothers whose secrets, lies and misdemeanours create havoc in the lives of their adult children. Tales from the Motherland will surprise you, make you laugh and maybe shed a tear...possibly all at the same time.

It is being performed on Friday 7 March and starting at 7.30pm in our Village Hall. To book your place in the audience go to

bookings.obvh@gmail.com

Update on the Tea Room.

After a soft opening and trial run, the Old School Bookshop now have their Tea Room up and running. It is open the same hours as the bookshop, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Please bear with them as they develop their menu and get up to speed. Service may be a little slow and steady at the moment so thank you for your patience.

The bookshop is also still open for great inspiring books, gifts, book orders and more. Remember you can browse and reserve online.

What's it worth?

Thom Gaze of Diss are holding an antiques and collectibles valuation day at the Old Buckenham Village Hall. It is booked for Saturday 12 April

between 10am and 2pm. The price will be £5 per item or £10 for three items, with a limit of three items per person. It will be on a first come, first served basis and refreshments will be available.

Start looking out things to bring along now.

February minutes

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

Old Buckenham Parish council met on Thursday 6 February in the Village Hall. Those attending were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Steve Gowers and Pete Twissell. Also attending were Megan Elvin (Clerk) and ten members of the public. Apologies for absence had been received from David Taylor. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2025 were approved (4 in favour).

Financial matters. Payments for approval totalled £2828.74. These included £254.95 to Donna Oakley, £49.96 to Rachel Noyes and £22.50 to the Methodist Church for room hire. Also £120.49 for the community car drivers, £960 to Broadland Trees and £88 to Brett Hibbert.

Quarterly finance audit. This was completed by Pete Twissell, Naomi Bailey and Doug Irons.

Councillors' reports. Steve Askew said

OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk Megan Elvin
clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Naomi Bailey, (Chair) 18 March
Field Way. 07432 652177

Stan Burton, Mill Farm, The Green.
711022 or 07787 168562

Lesley Evison, The Old Prince, Fen
Street. 07796 136399

Steve Gowers, Semere, Church
Lane. 07765 861770

Doug Irons, Mill House, Mill Road.
07808 611938

David Taylor, email
pc99taylor@gmail.com

Peter Twissell, The White House,
The Green, 07826 375356

Donna Oakley, (RFO), 6 Old Post
Office Terrace, 01953 860125

that Cake Street ditch work has now been done. The Gypsy Lane manhole cover has been completed. Signs near war memorial have been requested for repair. Hedges on Hargham Road should be organised for cutting but not yet been done. Pot holes have been reported today around the Green. Drainage investigation work has commenced and is undergoing. The suggestion was made that 30mph should be extended on Fen Street. Highways are happy to do a speed assessment. If they do the assessment and they do agree that this needs to be extended, it would need to be funded by the parish or Steve Askew's council member's budget. Another question put to Steve Askew was whether we can we ask the highways for a weight limit to be put Fen Street. Naomi Bailey had discussed parking issues with the schools. There was a positive outcome from meeting with Paul Beale, Headmaster of Old Buckenham High School. Land near the school reception is to be tarmacked to create more parking for staff which will, in turn, allow more parking for parents nearby.

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

Thursday 20 March

Contributions by email to
obnewspostbox@aol.com

She had been in correspondence with Luke at Highways about the Green pot holes and also with others regarding flooding of Westview Farm. The burst water main at Manor Corner has been fixed. However the pond is still full and Anglian Water did not think to pump this out. Hopefully this will naturally drain with the better weather that is forecast.

Some emergency tree work had been done to remove some branches on the Green. David Trammer has been contacted concerning payment for the Two Wheel Tuesdays in 2024. Will know in the next couple of days if the payments have come through. Doug Irons said that David Tranmer wanted to apply for use of the Green again. An application had now just been received. Soil has been placed on areas that require repair and these areas have been fenced off.

At the Saturday Surgery, the public were asking about maps of drainage. This was spoken of last year and a large map would be divided into sections. The previous Clerk was going to sort this in summer 2024 but never did do anything. Doug Irons will sort this for next parish council meeting. Need to find out which First Aid box would cover us and an email sent to NALC regarding this.

Stan Burton had obtained a quote for chipping up the branches and removing roots left on the Green. This will need to be done before the end of March and the quote was for £380 + VAT. A proposal to approve this was agreed (6 in favour).

Steve Gowers had been finding out about the steps opposite the Stud. Handrails have now been added and that's all that can be done. As we are able to send dashcam footage to the police, so we should be able to send pictures of lorries violating the 7.5 tonne limit on Hargham Road. Photos of the back of the lorry with number plate are needed. Volunteers for community Speedwatch sessions at the weekends are required. He has put himself down for Playground inspection training with Community Action Norfolk. A proposal for him to attending the training was agreed (6 in favour).

New planning applications. 18 Oaklands. Demolition of existing conservatory and replace with side extension - certificate of lawfulness - proposed use (PL/2024/1107/CLOPUD). As this was an issue of lawfulness, no need to consider this.

Field adjacent Old Buckenham High School, Abbey Road. Proposed erection of a single storey stable block, grooming bay, hay barn and tack room to facilitate horse keeping (PL/2024/1194/FMIN). (note: error in Breckland's published site location which reads Attleborough High School). No issues and proposal to support was approved (6 in favour).

To approve the following policies: Health and Safety and Maternity Leave. Proposals to support both policies were approved (6 in favour).

To vote for the preferred legal

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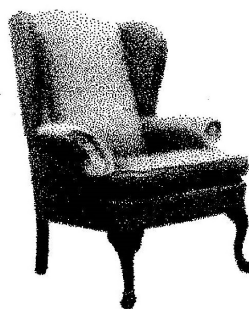
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structure of NALC. This was approved.

Green Working Committee

report. Lesley Evison, Stan Burton and Sally Honour walked around the Green. Various patches of brambles on the Green, particularly on Mill Lane, will be cleared as well as the self-seeding saplings under the trees. Certain areas of brambles will be left alone for nature reserve. Various other spots that require clearing are the hedge at The Pound (Green area in front of Almshouses) as it is creeping further over to The Pound. After harvest the farmer will then be asked to trim this back. Walked around the pond outside the village shop – will clean this back and make it a nature area with the potential of adding a bench – there's a three-year plan for this. By the bus area opposite The Gamekeeper there are more brambles which need clearing. The ditch that is by the school was originally understood to be the responsibility of Highways. However have now been corrected and that this is the parish council and needs clearing. Branches are getting close to the road near The Bake House and will be cleared by Stan Burton. A silver birch tree also needs cutting back and he will try and get this done by the next week.

Main topic of discussion was cutting of the Green. Intentions were cutting the full Green at the beginning of May. Instead of cutting the full Green back for the summer, to cut a 20

metre strip around the outside of the Green and leaving the rest as a nature area. Then in Autumn to cut it all back again fully. The Pound will need to be cut three times a year. Will be getting a quote for this grass cutting.

Want to set up a "Friends of Old Buckenham Green" page/Facebook Group in the hopes to get volunteers with helping clear the Green.

Terms of Reference for Green Working Committee. Doug Irons will organise this.

Green maintenance. In the area outside cottages on Green, near Village Shop, there is erosion from the building work that has gone on. Stan Burton will look at the drain block. Posts and tape has been acquired to corner off the erosion as it is nothing to do with Highways. Water is running out of the potholes into the property. This will need to be filled but will not be a quick fix. The erosion is also on part of a private driveway, so part of the responsibility is not fully on the Parish Council – this will need to be looked into further.

Sunnyside Track. Mr and Mrs Ramsey have never claimed ownership to this piece of land and do not wish for ownership. This has always belonged to the Parish Council. There used to be an agreement with the previous owners of the property of a peppercorn rent to allow them use of the land opposite Sunnyside Cottage. It is unfair to set this up with Mr and

Mrs Ramsey now after they have lived in the property for 6 years.

Agreement is in place that the posts will stay where they are. Paperwork will be sorted before the next meeting. Thanks are given to the residents for footing the bill for the posts and for organising this with Highways with the support of the Parish Council. Please note that if anyone has a problem with the posts on Sunnyside Track, please come to the Chair of the parish council Naomi Bailey, with their complaints and not to the residents.

More posts will be going in on Reggie's Way. The parish council is fully responsible for these posts. This will be put in during the schools' half term. Topsoil is needed for either side of the posts. Quotes for obtaining topsoil are being gathered, as well as requests on Facebook.

Speedwatch report. We currently have seven volunteers but we require more volunteers to come and help. The area has to be safe for the volunteers and also for the motorists. More SAM signs to be distributed to get further information. Norfolk Police will not authorise a mobile speed watch unless we have collected speed data to pass on to them. If we can get enough volunteers, then a speed watch could be actioned on Fen Street. This will need to be on the 30mph side as we cannot do this in a 60mph area. Steve Gowers is collecting data from the SAM signs and forwarding it on to the police.

Review of the allotments. The current

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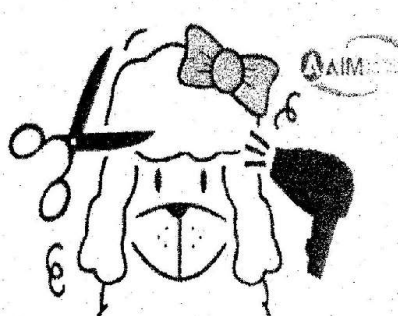
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situation is complicated. There are tenants without any agreements, agreements from others that are no longer with us. Started off with fifteen plots but now, due to flooding, are down to eleven workable plots. Six plots are actually being used at the moment of which three are of good upkeep. Down £235 due to lack of income, to cover rent, water and maintenance. Unused plots will need a skip to clear them out. There is rubbish around the site as well as problems with deer and rabbits. Netting has been erected but this has not been successful in keeping them out, solid fencing would be required. The land that the allotments are on is not good for agricultural growing. The parish council will have to consider if it is worth keeping the allotments. Potentially look to find another bit of land that is smaller. Or negotiate with the farmer to reduce the amount of land we rent. If the decision is to close, will need a consultation agreement for closing the allotment with the tenants. Three months' notice is required for tenants surrendering a plot. Same period of notice is required for the parish council in terminating contract.

Churchyard update. With everything that had gone on last August the Cemetery has taken a back seat. A company (CDS Group) is the only company in England that specialises in checking whether a site could be suitable. Conversations are required with current farmers who are leasing the land that we are considering to



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use. Before anything can be done, a ground water assessment is required. Preliminary risk assessment, free of charge has been given.

The cost of full risk assessments will be £17,650. Just the Ground Water assessment will be £5,700. A parcel of land has been identified that may be suitable. Looking at £20,000 an acre to buy land from a farmer and would ideally need to have 1.5 acres. Naomi Bailey to contact them again. Could make money back from burial charges. On an acre plot, you could get around 1,000 graves. Between now and next meeting Naomi Bailey and Pete Twissell will get in touch with Stuart Barker and Steve Askew to go ahead with the first initial test.

Public participation. The next Parish Council 'Surgery' will be on Saturday 29 March at the Village Hall. A member of the public had a query on the drainage of Ottomer pond. The pipe for the pond can be traced but unable to take the lid off the chamber as footing of the wall remains above it. Now been given permission to dig down into the chamber from the other side of the wall to find the outlet from this chamber and to see where the overflow goes out. If the outlet is on private land then what can we do? Not able to comment until know what is on what land and what it was before. Doug Irons and Stan Burton will contact Norfolk County Council to have another survey.

Next agenda. Items to consider for next agenda should include decision on future of allotments, an update on

the Solar Farm and the Weather Radar Tower, the Churchyard, training for Councillors, lease agreements, water pump and list of equipment and where it is stored and Trustee appointment.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 6 March 2025 at Old Buckenham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Village Hall news

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 5 February. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Richard Crawley, Secretary; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Jane Kelly, Booking Clerk; Jay Lucas, Hall Manager; Pete Twissell, Parish Council rep; Jenny Devaux; Alison Frank; Tracey Hayden; Rosemary Pratt and Teresa Kemp.

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed member Teresa Kemp who will take over as Women's Institute representative. Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Terry Cook, Gina Stanfield and Chris Dalton.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. Some of the matters arising included the dog waste bin that had been purchased and awaits installation and the hearing loop in main hall has been reconnected.

The Precept Grant for the curtains project was obtained. The outcome of the Grant application to the National Lottery might not be known

before the end of March. The all-important AGM is on Wednesday 2 April and needs publicising before that. Please note the 7pm start. The secretary said the Gambling Act had been dealt with and CAN membership renewed. He will circulate an updated Village Hall Handbook. He also asked members to let him know before the AGM if they wished to stay on, take over a vacant post or stand down, to facilitate the work of the meeting. Publicity of the AGM to attract new members will be through notices to user groups, Facebook and social media, posters and by members spreading the word. The role of secretary was not normally as onerous as it had been recently as much work had been put into the new boiler and insulation and even more on the process to Incorporated status.

Accounts will be ready by the March meeting to give members time to peruse them before the AGM. The car park repairs represented a large expenditure from our finances. Invoices for 2024 have been completed. The Pop-up-Pantry is now booked on Wednesday mornings. Some family bookings were coming in. Performance of Tales of the Motherland will be on Friday 7 March by fEast. Tickets will be £10. There will be a raffle and bar. Katie Whiting's performance based on Folk Lore is on Friday 21 November. The Asian group is now booked three times a year.

Hall Manager's report included that the Social Media policy has been completed. The electricity contract has been renegotiated and the committee agreed to a one year contract.

A larger, lockable Biffa bin will be installed at the back of the car park. Policies on food waste disposal are being changed which will affect us and may need to consider using SERCO. A discount for the work dealing with the suppliers of the Hall's stage and window curtains has been negotiated. The side curtain portion of the stage curtains will need to be looked at. The Players will be notified when the curtain company rep visits so that a member of Players can be present to advise. Future events include the British Trust for Ornithology's talk which is booked for Friday 21 March. A valuation day for antiques and valuables is also booked for Saturday 12 April and a booking for Stan Burton and his pop group Soft Phenomena is being considered. The lighting board that is kept in the storage room for occasional use is temperamental and needs changing and Village Electricals will be asked to look at it. The toilet soap being used which contains almond oil will be checked as some people may be allergic to it.

The date of the next committee meeting will be Wednesday 5 March.

Evacuee came to this village

This is the first part of a story written by the newsletter editor after a conversation with a local inhabitant. More will follow in future issues.

Back soon after the start of the second World War young children were being sent from London to the countryside. One little five year old with the name of Donald travelled here to avoid the dangers of wartime Hackney and to spend time in Old Buckenham. His group of children came to Attleborough Station and were then brought by coach to the Manor House to be shared out amongst the sympathetic villagers.

Young Donald with his long blonde hair and dressed in a sailor suit was one of last to be picked out. His 'auntie' thought she had a very quiet little girl but later that day found out when there was a need for a trip to the toilet that she had a boy! Donald was sent out in the garden to pick some flowers for his mother. He came back with a large armful of just marigold heads as they didn't have even a garden in Hackney and he had no idea how to pick them...

A Gamekeepers Boye

Wot be yew ar smilon ar bote Red Van Man, its this har teks I git orn me mobal Ole Man, thar rit sorf. Lok art this har wun, "hev yar ers perct wile yew wate". Cors yew hed tew, yew carnt sa hers ma ers, I pic men up orn me wa bac frum tha

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I dunt use therm thar mobal fones, I hev enuf trubal wit tha rel wun in ma house, nevar min I wil heta lern tew use em in tha futar, cos no wun seams tew wornt tew spek tew yew eny mor, orl thar due is sen yew wun orf them thar tex fings!

Larst munf we mensun tha Ole Gal, hew wus ar getin orn tew yew ar bote howe yew liked Gam Shotin, I dew she wus rite orn har hih hoss. I larfed at yar ansars yew giv har, specile tha firs wun. Wel misus, yew sa, I carnt help notarsing in yar

shorpin bag yew hev bort sum fli spray, frum thar shorp orn tha green. I spose yew ar goen tew spray sum flis when yew git hom, tha be Gods lital creatures arn yew be ar kilern them, thart be tha same ar shotarn ar fesarnt, cept we eate em, yew dunt dew thart wit yar fils dew yew.

Lok art ar ole green, wen tha cut it fre times ar yar, yew jus fink howe meny bugs arn insecs tha kil, hundrads arn thousands orf them, thart be wi them ole crows, rookes arn pigens folow thar cutin marchine cose thar pic up arn eat tha ded uns. In fernes yew see em ar doin this fore most orf tha yar wen them thar ole bugs arn insecs be stil arliv, thart be nature we orl feed orf sum fink witch wus arliv wunce. I her yew sar yew gort ar chickern fore yar tea, I spec yew hed ar turki fore Chrismars, tha wus orl bred tew be kiled fore yew tew scof wont tha!

Yew sed yar dad wus ar Gamekeeper. Thart he wus, it wus ar famarle tradishun, five generashuns orf them, sadly ar tradishun thart hev changed ovar tha yars. Tel me wot he wode be ar doin, sa Red Van Man. Cor blas thart wode teke ar rite long time I sa. He did rite this har book ar bote his life, it wus corld "In Gentlemans Service" it makes ar rite gode rede. I try arn giv yew arn ider wot he did. Artar tha war he started his first jorb fore ar large farm the ownar orf witch liked his shotin.

His yar start wit wot tha corld tha

rerin sesun. Fesarnt arn Partridge eggs be ern hatched undar brodie hens arn bantarns, witch cum frum his own hen houses or he borrowed frum local pepal in arn ar rond tha vilarge. Tha farmar dad worked fore pridard himself he hed wun orf thar best English Partridge shoots in Norfock. I jus rembar tha wun fink I like tew due wus tew walk ar rond tha hedg rows lokern fore English Partridge nes, mos nes wode hev up tew ar dozen eggs in em, sum times thar wode be fiftern or so. If them thar eggs wose cold we wode pic em up arn tak em arn put them undar thar brodie hens or bantarns. These ole hens arn bartarns ust tew be in nes boxs, tha hed tew be tarkern orf tha nes boxs twice ar day wunce in tha mornin arn nite tew be fed arn watard. Tew storp em ole hens movern or wandin orf tha hed ar bit orf strin tide tew thar leg, witch wus hoked ova ar stake in thar grund oparsit thar nes box, tha wode be orf thar nes fore ar bote haf arn hour. Tha sen time as them tha fesarnt or Partridge wode be in thar wild wen tha lef tha nes tew feed. Wen tha eggs hatch, witch mos orf em did tha young chicks wode sta undar tha "Mothers" in thar nes box fore ar few days ar fore bein put in ar wire pen wit tha "Mothers" dad wode feed em twice ar day until tha code fen fore tha selves.

Norridge ar orn tha telly tew nite rekorns Adrian he allus hollers fore them, tha hent dun so wel this har sesun he rekorns but wit ar bit orf luck tha wil be ar playin Ipswich bie tha end orf this her yar.

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:

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John Frost (Attleborough only) - 01953 860841

Lorna Gedge - 01953 860669

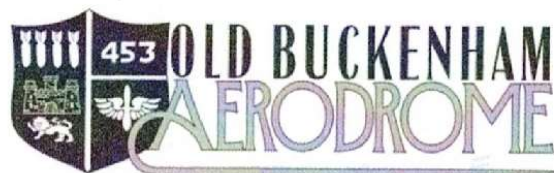
Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261

Diary dates for March

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

Monday 3	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Wednesday 4	Quiet time at All Saints Church, 7.30pm
Thursday 6	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Friday 7	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Friday 7	Tales of the Motherland, Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 8	Church Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm
Wednesday 12	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Monday 17	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Thursday 20	Copy date for April newsletter
Friday 21	Talk on owls by BTO, Village Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
Thursday 27	Women's Institute, Village Hall. 7.30pm
Saturday 29	Saturday Surgery, Village Hall, 10am to noon

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School Bookshop open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 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 Shelf Pop Up Pantry in the Village Hall Memorial Room every Wednesday from 9.30pm to 11am.



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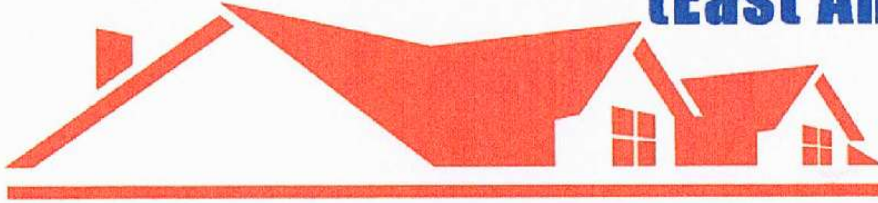
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