

# Old Buckenham Newsletter



**May 2025**



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Margrett Davies would like to sponsor this May newsletter to mark the tenth anniversary of moving to Old Buckenham. With thanks to the Trustees (past and present) of the Robert Cocks Almshouses.

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.

## Remembering John Loveday

*These words have been written by Tom Walshe:* Old Buckenham has lost a favourite son and a dear friend with the passing of John Loveday, just a few weeks short of his 99th birthday.

Although John hadn't lived in the village since the 1940s, it remained a very special place to him, one full of memories and family links going back to times most of us could only imagine.

John, though, really brought our imagination to life with his remarkable book, *The Boy From Rod Alley*, recounting great stories and recalling wonderful characters from his 1930s childhood.

I learned things about my own family from John as, I'm sure, did others in the village. What made the book even more remarkable was that he started writing it when well into his 80s and published it aged 93.

His memory of people and events was amazing. Above all, he wanted his book to be true to life, and it certainly was that. "I was determined to get the child's experiences through the senses, rather than the usual self-congratulation of memoir," he said in an interview with the *Eastern Daily Press* when the book came out.

"I think one of my aims was to make a truthful record of 'how it was' and celebrate lives, but quickly it also became an interest in a way of writing."

John was born on the same day as Queen Elizabeth, April 21st 1926 at No. 4 Rod Alley Row. I learned only recently from his daughter Sharon that, 80 years later, he and his wife Evelyn were among those invited to join Her Majesty at a birthday celebration lunch in Buckingham Palace.

**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>**

Back in the period between the wars, however, Old Buckenham was a very different place from how it is today. Its residents included those who had survived war or lost loved ones and endured financial hardship brought about both by the brutal 1914-18 conflict and the economic upheavals that followed.

To an inquisitive boy like John, though, many of them were characters who made a lasting impression – and had the nicknames to prove it, like Manny Bush, Naff Etteridge, Sudden Rudd, Stoot Loveday, Cuckoo Loveday, Podger Fisk, Tip Self, Fiddler Wright, Pippin Elvin, Wiggy Westfield...

And among his like-minded contemporaries, none was more important to John than his best friend Neville Petley whose sudden death from meningitis left him bereft and confused about life's meaning and purpose.

Attending the village school, latterly the Church Rooms, now a welcoming bookshop and cafe, also made a deep impression on John, and particularly the two principal teachers in the village, Mr and Mrs Hart. John disliked Len Hart intensely for his aggressive strictness bordering on cruelty, but had a lot of time for his more considerate and approachable wife who looked after the infants.

John's experiences of the Harts shaped his own views on teaching when he became a schoolmaster himself after the war, and he determined to be everything that



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**Our next meeting is at  
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and it is a Resolutions  
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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:**

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**or email us on  
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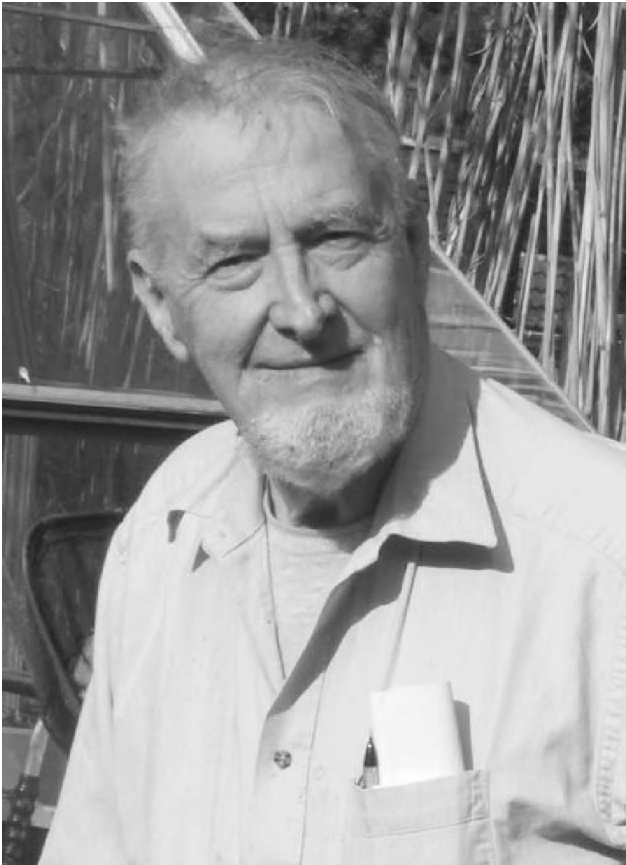
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Len Hart was not.

Yes, above all John Loveday was a kind and perceptive man. His love for Old Buckenham and the strong family ties that the Lovedays have had with the village down the years remained as strong as ever right up to the time of his passing. And he enjoyed nothing more than hearing and talking about the places and the people that were so special to him.

John's daughter Sharon and his brother-in-law John Houchin came to the village at the end of April for a visit planned before John's passing. It will be a poignant time for them but I'm sure the village they themselves have got to know and love will give them a warm welcome in loving memory of the Boy from Rod Alley.

## All Saints May services

*Sunday 4 May*

10am Group Holy Communion at Kenninghall (no service at All Saints)

*Tuesday 6 May*

10am Holy Communion followed by coffee and chat

*Sunday 11 May*

9.30am Holy Communion

*Wednesday 14 May*

7.30pm A time for Quiet Reflection, led by a lay member of All Saints Church

*Sunday 18 May*

9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer

*Sunday 25 May*

9.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 1 June*

10am Group Holy

Communion/Rogation Day service at Wilby, led by Bishop Ian of Thetford (no service at All Saints)

## April Parish Council meeting

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

Old Buckenham Parish council met on Thursday 3 March in Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Stan Burton, Steve Gowers and Pete Twissell. Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Lesley Evison, David Taylor, Megan Elvin (Clerk) and Donna Oakley (RFO). Also attending were Terry Cook (Acting Clerk) and nine members of the public. The minutes

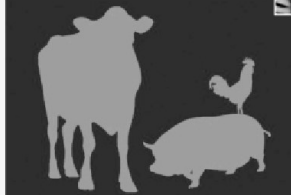
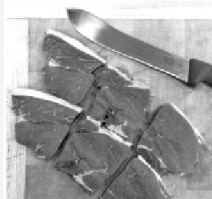
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**Monday** CLOSED – available for private bookings

**Tuesday** 10am to 12 noon Warm Space  
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**Wednesday** Café open 1pm to 4pm

**Thursday** 10am to 11am Yoga with Poppy

**Friday** 10am to 11.15am Monthly Yoga  
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**Saturday** Café open 9am to 12 noon

**Sunday** – CLOSED- available for private bookings

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the Village Hall car park.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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the Village Hall at the  
same time.**

of the meeting held on Thursday 6 March were agreed (4 in favour) with one amendment to say that there was a need to appoint another Trustee for the Eleemosynary Trust. The Chair requested the editor of the Village Newsletter to run a paragraph in the next newsletter to explain what the 'Eleemosynary Trust' is. (see page 16)

***Financial matters.*** The Community Account balance stands at £22,492.84. Payments totalling £1678.59 were agreed (4 in favour). These included £675.79 to the Clerk, £270 to the RFO, £61.50 to Phil Little, £456 to Broadland Tree Services, £88.80 to NALC Training and £126.50 to the community car drivers.

***Councillors' reports.*** Steve Gowers confirmed that the CPR and defibrillator training was completed. He reported back about potholes by the Post Office and expressed frustration with Highways as little was being done by them in the Village about traffic apart from repainting "Slow signs". Speed Watch data showed that, on average, the sessions are showing 15 motorists exceeding the 34 mph speed limit for the recording period. SAM data for Fen Street indicates that there is no future need for Speed Watch there. SAM sign data shows that its use appears to slow the traffic; it informs the Speed Watch team of areas to focus upon and it receives positive reaction in the village.

Stan Burton reported on the work that councillors had undertaken to clear the drainage pipe leading from Ottomer Pond. However, the pipe will need jetting to make sure it remains clear. He detailed verbal quotations obtained from a range of contractors. Work would not be able to be undertaken until July by contractors and said he would now obtain three written quotations. At this point there were verbal questions raised by members of the public in attendance. The first related to their view that it needs to be proven that the pipe is in good repair. This would future-proof the site and if building does take place and then damages the pipe this could be proven. It was stressed there was to need to be sure the pipe is secure. Stan Burton replied that it would up the costs considerably as the water is dirty and so difficult to get a clear picture. To get clear water running through the pipe would need extra work. He was of the opinion if the water jet goes through the pipe, it demonstrated it was secure. A further point was put by a member of the public - it would be beneficial to utilise the use of a camera as per the "Ottomer Pond Project Plan". Further discussion took place. The Chair proposed jetting the pipe to ensure a clear flow and if needed to utilise a camera one should be hired. This was agreed by councillors. Pete Twissell had asked the question posed by Breckland on whether the Hall would be available for opening "in the event of emergencies"? Under the proposed new constitution of the Hall

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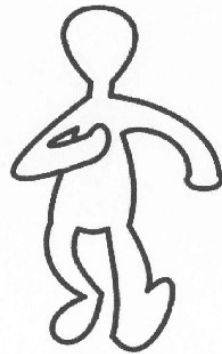
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as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) they are required to work with outside agencies and so the answer is yes. The Village Hall Committee also agreed to the Council request for a new post box at the Village Hall. At the Village Hall meeting there was a request to reseed an area of the grounds with wildflower seeds. Discussion took place re the proposal and a councillor offered to purchase a kilo of seed for £26 to be paid for by the Council. All Councillors were in favour. He asked for advice from the Parish Council in relation to the dwindling number of people willing to serve on the Village Hall Committee. If it came to the point where numbers on the committee were not sufficient to efficiently run the Hall what would be the position of the Hall? The answer was that the Hall would be run by the Parish Council. It was recommended that the recruitment of Village Hall Committee members would be included on the agenda for the

Village AGM.

Naomi Bailey has arranged a meeting for various parish council members together with Sarah Dye in relation to charity accounts and assets. She has also had a meeting with Stuart Barker about the village job list. In relation to car parking outside the Village Shop, who has responsibility for fixing the potholes? There is a need to investigate. Doug Irons has asked what is happening regarding the Bank Account. Should the Parish Council employ the RFO to sort out the problem?

***New planning applications.*** Old School Bookshop, Church Rooms, The Green. Continued use of Church Rooms to include Class E (Bookshop/Café and sale of related merchandise) and change to opening hours (PL/2025/0261/FMIN). There were no issues and it was agreed to support the application (4 in favour). 64 Fen Street. Renewal of planning permission 3PL/2021/0102/HOU - Construction of Swimming Pool and

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Erection of Pool Building including gym, changing room and lounge area ( PL/2025/0314/HOU). There were no issues and it was agreed to support the application (4 in favour). Land Off Attleborough Road. Certificate of Lawful Existing Development - carrying out works comprising of site access (labelled 'Access track (West)' and 'Access track (East)) as the lawful implementation of planning permission 3PL/2021/0236/F (PL/2024/0886/CLEUD).

**Green Working Committee update.** Cut brambles have been chipped and removed, posts on Sunnyside side of The Green are having topsoil put around their bases and wildflower seeds spread to stop weed incursion, the sandbags at Ottomer Pond will be having topsoil put over them – it will then require spreading. Damaged tree branches in Jubilee Wood (opposite the Gamekeeper) need to be addressed – a tree surgeon has been contacted but needs chasing up. Several quotes have been obtained to

undertake two cuts of the Green. It is proposed to cut certain areas and not the whole of the Green. The main Green will be cut all round edges. It is proposed to use grass cutters instead of tractors so the surface of the Green can be protected, and cuts can be made under the trees. Issue to be resolved is how to pay as the Green Committee have approximately £2000 but the cheapest quote is £4000. Wayleaves were mentioned and will be offered as they appear during the year as appropriate. The new proposals will improve the Green and allow for wildflower growth. The volunteer/working party proposal has already had several people come forward. Key immediate tasks include brambles need clearing the Mill Road end of the Green and around the bus shelter, a tidy up of the pond near to the village shop, clear up fallen wood, Crown Road and Church Lane areas require suckers from trees to be addressed.

**Hedge rows at Puddledock.** This matter was raised last August by Mr and Mrs Avis. Hedgerow requires



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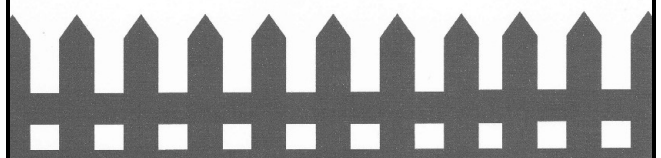
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thinning around Puddledock Corner area. This would improve visibility at the corner and the turn into Fen Street. Quote of £600 to do this and Highways will not pay. Proposed that the Parish Council pay and this was agreed (4 in favour).

***Church Yard update.*** A meeting was held with two members of the Church (minutes available) to devise a way forward. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 May and will look at costs, funding sources, options available, procedures to get firm arrangements and costs and bring back to the Parish Council for further discussion.

***Solar Farm update.*** The Clerk is waiting for a reply from PACE which is the company who are dealing with the Solar Farm. They have allocated the Clerk to go to a named person, Mark Kelly. The Clerk has tried to get in contact with him over the phone but now she is waiting for an email update. A key question will concern possible funding implications for the village and what the funding can be used for.

***Weather Radar update.*** The main

works contract (for the construction of the radar tower and communications cabin) has been awarded to Brody Forbes Ltd with the main phase of construction expected to start on site in May this year. Some site clearance has already been carried out at the Anglian Water Drilling Yard on Abbey Road. In advance of the main works the project team are progressing with some infrastructure work (power and communications) on site. The tower top install of the radar parts is planned for the autumn of this year with a period of testing and commissioning before the radar becomes fully operational in the early summer of 2026. The project team have made Brody Forbes Ltd aware of the sensitivities around the site and of the restrictions around using some of the local roads. Brody Forbes Ltd will liaise with local stakeholders, including Old Buckenham Parish Council, in advance of and during the works to minimise any disruption.

***VE and VJ Day celebrations.*** We have unfortunately missed the deadline for applying for a grant from Breckland Council to help pay towards the celebration. The cut off date was March so if we do want to do something for VE/VJ day it would be out of the parish's pocket. An idea that the Clerk has had was that we could consider is an "Old Buckenham VE/VJ Day Bake Off". Contestants can pay a small entry fee to participate. We could have two competitions, one for savoury foods that were

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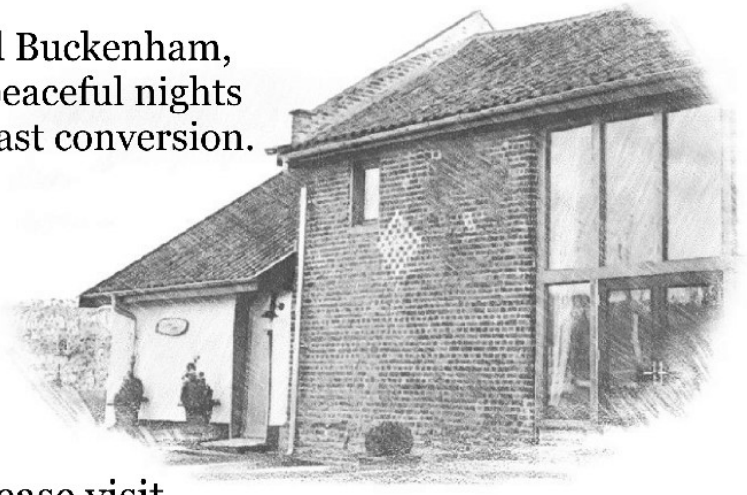
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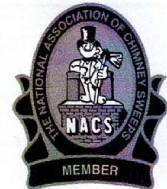
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popular in World War II and one for sweet foods that were popular in World War II. We can come up with a list of foods for each side; give this to the contestants and then they can choose what food to make at home to then bring to the judging in the village hall on the day that we celebrate. Some of the income from the entry fee will be kept back for the council and can be used to pay for the Village Hall, the other part can be put into a cash prize for the winner. We can have two of the councillors as judges for the food. The Parish Council approved the idea (4 in favour).

***The Green Lease.*** Concerning the benches on the Green outside the Ox and Plough, initially the insurance certificate required by the applicant was not forthcoming. It has now been received. Everything is now in place; agreement reached in principle and just requires the agreement to be signed and fee paid. Now that the policy is in place there is a need to ensure regulations are followed.

***Public participation.*** There was a request for email addresses for all Councillors so that they could be forwarded a copy of the Ottomer Pond Project Plan. There was a feeling for the need to move forward from the cleaning of the pipe to following the key points in the Project Plan. This would then allow the Chair to release funds if in agreement with the Project Plan. Further discussion took place on the needs of the Project Plan and possible contractors who could

undertake the work.

The squeaky swing on the Children's Playground is annoying to residents living nearby. An assurance was given that this was in hand. Also a member of the public came forward and volunteered to become a Trustee for the Eleemosynary Trust.

***Items for next agenda.*** These will include Ottomer Pond (ongoing), areas of long grass and benches to be dealt with the handyman, updates on the Solar Farm and Weather Radar, date for Village AGM and Speed Watch update on speed signs.

*The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 1 May in Old Buckenham Village Hall and starting at 7.30pm.*

## What was it worth?

The first Antiques and Collectables Valuation Day to be held at the village hall was a success, with many people leaving with smiles on their faces. Elizabeth Talbot (of TV's 'Flog It' and 'Bargain Hunt' fame) was there with her team of valuers ready to assess the many different interesting objects that passed over their tables throughout the day. The Diss Express also dropped in and took photos.

## Explaining eleemosynary

An eleemosynary trust is a type of charitable trust that specifically provides relief to individuals in need, such as those facing poverty, age, sickness, or other similar afflictions. Essentially, it's a fund set up to

# 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

distribute resources or support to individuals with specific needs. Old Buckenham does receive some money each year from land that it owns in the parish so the Trustees of the Old Buckenham United Eleemosynary Charity invite residents of Old Buckenham to apply for an annual grant of benefit. Grants are to help with needs experienced by residents, such as electricity and heating bills and various other needs. It may be that there is a long-term situation requiring extra funds, or perhaps a more temporary problem has occurred only recently. The Trustees have a duty to ensure that the annual distribution of monies reflects the aim of the Charity to support the most deserving in our village and there is no age restriction. The Trustees will meet each year and review all requests received. They will take into consideration any other benefits currently received by all applicants and distribute the funds accordingly.

## Glass means money

For members of the Village Hall

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

## Tuesday 20 May

Contributions by email to  
*obnewspostbox@aol.com*

Committee one of the saddest sounds regularly heard in the village is the sound of glass bottles being emptied from your bins into the waste truck. Why? Because putting them in this bin puts money straight into the government's pocket. If you put your waste glass into the bottle bank bins on the village hall car park instead, you will be putting money into the running and upkeep of your village hall, which is a charity, instead. Come on everyone, let's support our community facility. It won't cost you a penny. That's all. Thank you.

## Developments at Bookshop

*A message from Lucie:* Since launching the Tea Room at the Old School Bookshop, I am so pleased to report that I have received such wonderful support from customers and the local community – you are all truly awesome! This has allowed me to recruit a small team of part time booksellers and baristas who are just all amazing – thanks to them and you all for being such a positive bunch! We have also decided to open on Mondays from the end of April – a perfect day to cheer Monday blues with some book browsing. So do drop in for a browse if you have time to spare on a Monday.

You can now book tables in the Tea Room or enquire about hiring the space on a Tuesday/Wednesday online at [oldschoolbookshop.co.uk](http://oldschoolbookshop.co.uk)  
Thank you from Lucie, Sally, Helen, Sam, Ches, Mark and the wider Old School Bookshop team

## Go to Bingo in May

The next Church Bingo will be on Saturday 17 May in the Village Hall. It starts promptly at 2pm and all are welcome. A thank you to those who have donated items for prizes and the raffle, more are always gratefully received by Alison Frank at The Old School House on the Green.

## Village Hall AGM

The Annual General meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee took place on Wednesday 2 April. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Terry Cook, Minute Secretary for the meeting; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Pete Twissell, Parish Council representative; Alison Frank; Tracey Hayden; Chris Dalton; Jay Lucas; Georgina Stanfield; Jenny Devaux; Teresa Kemp and four members of the public.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Chairperson and agreed. There were no matters arising. The Chairperson reported that it had been a quieter year – bookings slowly recovering after COVID disruption. Key has been raising profile of the Village Hall through events, use of the media and new committee members. The Secretary has been busy with the Incorporation process, which is nearly complete. A raising of booking fees has been necessary due to rising overheads. The new Hall Manager has been very effective and is ably supported by the cleaning, grounds maintenance and handyman staff. The Hall and grounds consequently are

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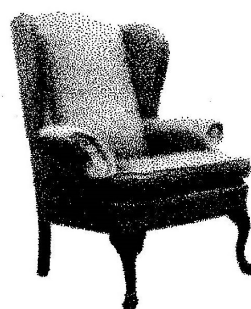
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looking good. For next year we have large financial undertaking because of needing to replace the window and stage curtaining to meet fire regulations.

A key challenge for the future is the need to recruit further committee members as a considerable number of the current members are either retiring or moving from the area. This includes the Chairperson, Secretary, Bookings Clerk and Hall Manager. Therefore, there is a need for a number of residents of the Village to come forward to serve on the committee to ensure the continuance of the Village Hall as resource for the Village.

The treasurer's report gave an overview of the accounts of the preceding year and he distributed copies of the full accounts. Last year's report centred upon the various inflationary cost centres impacting the Hall's finances. These increases required an uplift in the fees charged to users which was eventually enacted this year. That these were required is evidenced in the accounts to the end of 2024 as overall costs have increased by 24%. Lettings income has increased by 26% but only contributes less than 75% of running costs. This leaves the other 25% to be funded by a combination of recycling, grants and other activities. With recycling income on a downward trajectory our own fund-raising activities become increasingly important in ensuring profitability. The balance sheet is a testament to the

solid stewardship of the Hall both now and in the past. However, the Village Hall requires further major investment in the coming years and at present the Hall does not generate sufficient surpluses to do anything but break even.

General public questions and discussion took place. A point was raised of concerning several comments by members of the public regarding difficulty of contacting the Village Hall about bookings. The committee gave an assurance that this was in hand and contact arrangements will be clarified. This will ensure that the process is clear for all members of the public.

The extra events put on this year such as the talk on Owls, visiting drama groups, clairvoyant evenings and the open weekend at the time of the Air Show were welcomed and there were requests for more such activities. The Parish Council requested that they be given permission to install, at their cost, a new secure post box. This was agreed.

The Chairperson informed the meeting that whilst she would like to stay in the role, after much thought she had reached the decision, it was time to stand down. It was also reported that the Secretary and Booking Clerk had resigned due to them both moving from the village to the West of England. The Chairperson had hoped, after requests in the media, that new members could be recruited to the committee to help with succession planning and ensure

the future of the Hall as a resource for the whole village. However, no new potential members have so far come forward

Discussion was then undertaken how to cover roles in the interim period. It was stressed that there is a further need to try again by word of mouth and via the media to recruit new committee members. This is now an urgent priority if we are to maintain the operation and future of our Village Hall.

The next AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee will be on Wednesday 1 April 2026.

### More news from Village Hall

The general monthly meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee also took place on Wednesday 2 April immediately after the AGM. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Terry Cook, Minute Secretary for the meeting; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Pete Twissell, Parish Council representative; Alison Frank; Tracey Hayden; Chris Dalton; Jay Lucas; Georgina Stanfield; Jenny Devaux and Teresa Kemp. All members were present and so no apologies. The minutes of the March meeting were agreed and signed. The grant application to the National Lottery for funding towards the cost of the new curtains was not successful. The reason given was as the Village Hall is still in the process of transitioning from a Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) it does not yet have legal

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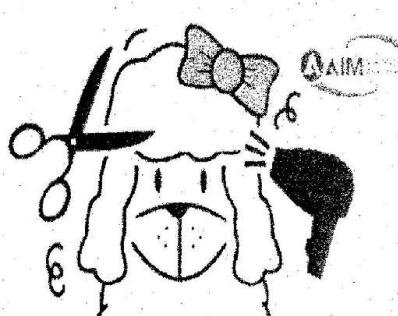
responsibility for the nominated bank account.

The Chairperson reported that the Village Hall has no plans for VE/VJ celebrations. Pete Twissell had been asked by Breckland if the Village Hall was available for opening in the event of emergencies. The Chairperson responded by stating that under our proposed new constitution as a CIO we are required to work with outside agencies and so the answer is yes. The provision of new curtains is proceeding and the external wall ashtray that was removed last year as part of the research into nesting habits of birds needs replacing.

Recent events in the Village Hall have been successful in raising additional revenue.

It was emphasised that there was a need to pace and spread events throughout the year to ensure sufficient help and support was available.

As the Secretary has resigned (owing to a move to the West of England) he has left for reference three documents – a Guide to being VHMC Secretary, becoming a Trustee of VHMC Committee and Trustees and Process for Bringing New Trustees onto the VHMC. He also left past Secretary documents along with past copies of the minutes. In addition, the Treasurer was asked to take over as the contact with the Charity Commission so he can put trustees names on their list until a secretary is appointed. He also



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left some recommendations for future actions including his view that the Parents Association that runs the parking permit scheme for the car park might consider upping the rate they charge to a more realistic level to give them more income for their administration and expenses and more to the Village Hall for maintenance. Parents now pay £30 per year to park twice a day over 40 school weeks. This works out at 75 pence a week. Last year's accounts overview centred upon the various inflationary cost centres impacting the Hall's finances. These increases required an uplift in the fees charged to users which was eventually enacted this year. That these were required is evidenced in the accounts to the end of 2024 as overall costs have increased by 24%. Lettings income has increased by 26% but only contributes less than 75% of running costs. This leaves the other 25% to be funded by a combination of recycling, grants and other activities. With recycling income on a downward trajectory the Hall's own fund-raising activities become increasingly important in ensuring profitability. However, the Village Hall requires further major investment in the coming years and at present the Hall does not generate sufficient surpluses to do anything but break even. As the previous Booking Clerk has moved to the West of England, there was no one to present a formal report. She is completing all previous booking systems and handing over to the new Booking Clerk in the second week of April. The Booking Clerk role will be

jointly organised in the first instance by Jenny Devaux and the Village Hall Manager. When all the invoicing has been completed an update will be provided.

The Owl talk was a fantastic evening with 49 people in attendance and raised just over £200. The Clairvoyant evening was attended by 89 people and raised just under £900. The recently acquired card payment machine has also proved to be a great success in its operation.

The Gardener continues to manage the grounds exceptionally well. He is now storing some equipment on site and has moved the composting area. A request has been made to purchase wildflower seed for the old composting area.

Waste management is key for the Hall now and in the coming years with new regulations being implemented concerning separating products in up to five different bins by March 2027. Now that the new waste management contract is with Breckland Council we should be compliant when it brings in the new regulations.

The electrical PAT testing has recently taken place. Two repairs were undertaken – a new electrical socket in the main entrance hall area and cloakroom light switch was replaced. The testing also identified that the two microwave ovens failed their emissions tests. Therefore, one will be replaced and there will be a review to ascertain whether a second is needed or not. As part of the process, it was discussed whether to replace all the

fluorescent lights to LED as replacements are no longer available. This conversion will cost £1162. Item to be discussed at a future meeting.

The external window tracking has been updated. At the same time adjustments were made to the Hall stage curtain tracking – this initially is a temporary adjustment until the Players check that it meets their requirements. By mid-April the curtain update should be completed. There has been a toilet blockage issue and it needed expert repair. A local contractor is now dealing with the issue.

The manhole inspection covers in the car park require attention. Both in terms of new covers (old ones are corroding) and the tarmac around them. Quotes are required for this work.

At the end of this report the Hall Manager announce she would be resigning as of July due to personal reasons. This will have a significant impact on the running of the Hall as she performs vital roles in terms of Hall management, managing the cleaners and in the booking process. There is a need for ideas concerning possible future events to be discussed at the next meeting. It is also critical that the Hall can attract new members onto the committee. The very future of the Village Hall is at stake. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

## Latest on Donald

Donald's work at Gerald Lee's electrical shop in Attleborough provided more memories of his young life. Left in charge one lunchtime and told to redo the window display he took the opportunity to show off one of the new and expensive colour televisions that were just becoming available. Donald had put the new set on a round table in the front window where it could be seen revolving round. When the boss came back after lunch he was surprised to see a crowd all peering in to his shop window. Whether the costly television was able to be sold after this we don't know.

The Fleet Air Arm was the next stop for Donald. He signed on for seven years as an engineer on the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle. He had the opportunity to sail around the world and catapult Seahawks of the deck and over the sea.

Now you will have to wait for the next installment in June to learn more of this interesting life.

## Writing for fun

The Attleborough Writing Group is looking for some new members. They are a small and friendly local group who enjoy creative writing and reading each other's short stories and poems. They meet regularly in Attleborough on Monday mornings for coffee and conversation. If you would like to know more you can leave a message



on [attwritersgroup@aol.com](mailto:attwritersgroup@aol.com) or even contact the newsletter editor for more details.

## Man on the Green say

Hi up Ole Man orn tha Green, sa Red Van Man yew sed yew wod tel us ar lort mor ar bote wot yar Dad did as ar Gamekeeper orl those yers ar go. I carnt sea enie wun else be intarestard, yew be rite sarprisd Ole Man.

How fa did we git?, yew wus ar sa in wot wus go ern tew harpen arter bof tha Pheasant arn Partridge chics wer put in tha relese pens arfor be in let out, arn retarn tew tha wild soe tew speke, I remenur I sa.

Afor we goe intar thart arn finkin ar bote tha Ole Gal in tha pub whoe startard orl this orf. I wus ar reden wun orn them thar high bro news pepars thufer da, thar wus ar articular in thar ritern bie ar Profosar orf wild bard life. He wus ar torkin ar bote seaguls, arn howe meny thousarns orf them wus kiled or maned each yar bie fly in tew those them thar win turbines thar hev bin put in tha norf sea tew genaret electricity. Thart wus rite fritening, soe much soe he reken tha ar paitern sum orf them thar win mils or turbines blac, soe tha ole guls carn see em. He sa mor bards died as ar result orf them, than wus shot ar game shotin.orl yar. Makes yew fink, them thar anties in cludin tha ole gal dunt now thart. I het tew sa I dint, sa Red Van Man, tha dunt want tew tel us thart do tha? Ware did we git tew? Yew wus ar

sain yar Dad Wus ar putern tha yun bards out. Firstly he hed tew decide ware tew put em. Thar Pheasant chics ar like ole hens be wen tha git oldar, tha due wandar ar bote ar bit, but tha best place for em is in woodard areas or small copsus. If thar ent nun orf em orn tha farm, tha mite be released into crops like kale, sugar beet, mustard or tha like. Tha het be fed wunce or twice ar weke for em tew hang ar rond.

Partridges be rite different, tha sta tewgefer as hatched, tha then be nown as a covey. Tha ten tew stay ware tha wus released, tharts orf corse if tha be fed ar cupal ar times ar weak. Idelie release places be corn crops or stubals bie tha time tha shotin season starts or idelie sugar beet which wont hev bin harvested bie them.

Tha keeper het tew fink orf meny fings wen releasin tha bards. Tha prevalen wind direckshun, how tha bards ar goin tew be driven tew wards tha guns, speshly tha Partridge thart ten tew fly low, idelie tha shode be driven ovar hih hedges, fick forn ust tew be popular, but modarn farmin hev sean ar lort orf hedges puled out tew make thar fields bigar tew arcomardit em grit ole marshines tha use tew da.

Wunce tha bards be in place tha keeper het tew concentrate orn vermin control, for boff tha reared bards an tha wild wuns, Carian Crows arn Rooks. Dunt thar Carian Crows hasel or kil orl tipos orf owls,

even barn owls arst Red Van Man. Thart them ole begars due. Then thars tha hawks specly tha Kestral arn the Kites, tha thrive orn preyin orn tha young chics. Thars tha ground vermin tew, Stotes, Foxes, Cats boff wild arn domestic tha play havoc wit tha wild nestin bards arn tha wild chics as tha grow oldar.

In yars gorn bie tha keeper het tew control tha wild Rabbits. Thar wus hundrards orf em. Tha use tew feed orn tha corn as it cum threw tha ground arter is wus sown, Barley arn Wheat wus thar favorit. Tha wus trapped, snared sum times shot, but shotern them wus tew expensif. Tha gin trap wus mostile used, rite narsty it wus tew, soe much soe its ust wus banned.

Ar bote this time ar vanerial desese wus imported from Australia arn introduced into tha U.K. In free or for yars it nerlie wiped out tha Rabbit population, orl low tha ar startin tew increase in numbars agin. Excuse mi French but it wus ar bloody horble desese, Mixarmotoses it wus corled. Keepers, Farmworkers sum times pepal frum tha vilarg wode walk tha fields wit ar stic "knockin orf" tha poor ole Rabbits who hed cort it. I nevar wont tew see tha likes orf it agin.

Makes yew fink sa Red Van Man, this har Covid thart be ar bote now tha recon thart wus leaked frum ar labority in China. Look how meny pepal thart med ill, sum died orf it, it changed ar way orf life. Jus yew fink how much worse it code hev bin if it

wus sumfing strongar. Tha risk orf thart harpenin is quite likly, lik them por ole Rabbits we code face extinshun. Shut yew up I sa, but yew code be rite.

Tha shooten season for Partridges start in Septembar arn for Pheasants in Octebar but most game shoots genarley wate ar few weeks later. Tharts enough for this munf Red Van Man, we wil tork ar bote tha shootin season nex munf, tharts if the newsletter editor lets us. Cheerio tewgefer

## **Resist temptation**

**It is so easy just to dump your old magazines and newspapers into your recycling bins along with all those glass bottles and jars.**

## **Don't take the easy way.**

**Save them up for when you next come to the Village Hall and dump them there instead.**

## **They will provide useful income for the Village Hall**

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**Lorna Gedge - 01953 860669**

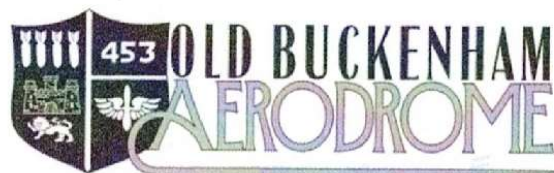
**Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261**

## Diary dates for May

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

|              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 1   | Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm                      |
| Friday 2     | Mobile Library throughout village from 10am               |
| Friday 2     | Youth Club, Methodist Church continues, 6.30pm and 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 8    | Coffee and chat, All Saints Church, 10.30am               |
| Wednesday 9  | Quiet time at All Saints Church. 7.30pm                   |
| Sunday 11    | Windmill open for tours, 1pm to 4pm                       |
| Monday 12    | Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm           |
| Wednesday 14 | Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm               |
| Saturday 17  | Church Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm                           |
| Tuesday 20   | Copy date for June newsletter                             |
| Thursday 22  | Women's Institute, Village Hall. 7.30pm                   |
| Friday 23    | OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm                          |
| Saturday 24  | Alternative Quiz, Methodist Church, 7pm                   |
| Saturday 24  | OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm                          |
| Friday 30    | Mobile Library throughout village from 10am               |

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 11am.



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