

# Old Buckenham Newsletter



March 2026



## Raising the Almshouse roof



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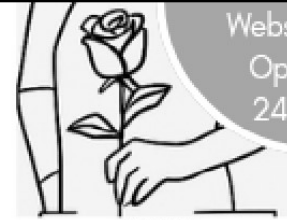
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A message from this month's sponsor: "Since becoming the Lord of Old Buckenham, my wife Roz and I are trying to get more involved in the village and so it gives us great pleasure to sponsor this month's newsletter especially as my birthday falls in March. Best wishes to all the villagers".

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. There are only two months free in 2026, October and December. Should you have a special occasion that you wish to celebrate during the year you may be able to share a month with someone else.

## Replacing the Almshouse roof

*This is the second part of the story about the Almshouses.*

The major project involved completely stripping the roofs, repairing and repointing the chimneys, replacing all leadwork and rainwater goods and re-slatting with original Welsh Slate and replacing the majority of the decorative ridge tiles and finials. Put very simply, the roofs in 2025 were as they were constructed in 1860 and it is a measure of the quality of Victorian workmanship that they had lasted so long. But the slippage of slates due to nail sickness was becoming a major drain on the Trust's resources, they could not leave the roof exposed to the elements by not addressing each missing slate. Due

to Health & Safety issues it became no longer a simple job of replacing a slate. Some five years ago it was decided that a plan was needed for the major work to be carried out.

Fortunately the Trust had had both some financial resources and construction expertise to carry this forward. Due to the Listed Status of the property and its prominence in the Old Buckenham Conservation Area the local authority Listed Building Officer was involved at all times and necessary consents obtained.

Once the decision had been taken to move forward and engage seriously with the project, a realistic assessment of likely cost was needed. The Trust had the benefit of Martin Hall, a

**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>**

retired architect Trustee with experience in Listed Building work and also a recent quinquennial survey which highlighted defects and visible issues. Whilst the internal roof structure was visible and appeared structurally sound, with an ornate Victorian design there were many hidden areas with potential issues that would only become apparent after work started. Thus in drawing up a specification and works schedule it was necessary to allow significant provisional and contingency sums to allow for possible unforeseen problems. Therefore, although they were not in a position to proceed, the Trust did elect to seek competitive tenders as the only realistic way to establish a budget. Tenders were sought in early 2021 from four specialist contractors, with three responses. These were analysed due to significant variance in inclusions and omissions and a like for like consensus was arrived at, producing a total VAT inclusive figure in excess of £125,000. This figure included approximately £16,000 of provisional and contingency items. The matter was put to one side until a review of finances was carried out and in October 2023 updated costings were sought, as there had been significant building industry cost



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inflation due to the combined issues of Covid and the Ukraine war. This resulted in a new projected contract sum and the main contractor Aspect Group Services of Wymondham were appointed with works planned to start in June 2025. A local firm of Chartered Surveyors, North & Hawkins, were appointed for contract management services. Scaffolding was erected during the last week of June 2025 and work proper commenced at the beginning of July. The initial phase of stripping the existing slates and leadwork was always expected to be the area where any unpleasant surprises were found, particularly



*Bob Adams*

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in respect to structural timberwork at valleys and the close boarding which the entire roof was covered with beneath the slates. In reality only minor timber repairs to the close boarding was necessary and the Victorian leadwork had managed to keep out the elements for over 160 years. One surprise was the fact that the slates had been nailed direct to the boarding without using tiling batten, unusual in England but apparently not uncommon in Scotland. One problem that would require solving was the fact that the new roofing, installed to current good practise, would require battens and counter battens and this, combined with the already shallow abutments at the brick parapet gables, would result in the ridge line being raised approximately 100mm. Whilst this had been anticipated and Listed Building Consent obtained for doing so, the problem manifested itself in a more complicated manner at the brick parapet abutments. Raising the brick parapets by approximately 150mm would require a lot of altered and new brickwork, with an impact on the incorporated stone detailing. Fortunately the contractor found a solution by the use of lead secret gutters at the principal abutments instead of the more usual lead flashings. This proved very successful and visually unobtrusive. The major issue and

cost increase came from the condition of existing ridge tiles and brick copings and detailing to the rear parapets that had to be raised. The ridges being a decorative feature with a slotted top, into which ornate finials were fitted, on close inspection and removal most appeared to have been badly repaired and impossible to successfully reuse. It has been possible to source purpose made replacements but at a significant cost.

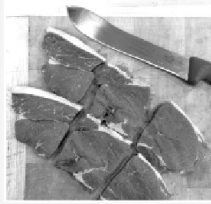
But these, along with the chimneys, are generally regarded as the notable feature to most observers and could not possibly be ignored or a poor repair carried out. Because of the necessity to order significantly more than anticipated, delays to overall completion were encountered waiting for manufacture. The contract was finally successfully completed the third week in November. The end result can only be described as a great success and will carry the Almshouses forward for many decades .

We are pleased that the recent roofing works have now been completed, and we trust you share our satisfaction with the outcome. As you are aware, this was a complex and specialist project, requiring highly skilled workmanship and purpose-made

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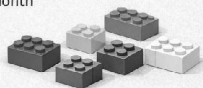
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materials suitable for a Grade II listed building. This resulted in significantly higher costs than a standard roofing repair.

The Trustees are now beginning to gather quotations for the next set of improvement projects.

They include installation of electricity to all sheds, resurfacing of the driveway including new paving around the property and installation of new washing lines.

How things change...

## Remembering Mike Bartlett

*These memories are taken from the eulogy given by his daughter Julie at his funeral.*

Michael Bartlett was born in Hove, Sussex, on 29 November 1936, an only child to Stanley and Amy Bartlett of 17 Fifth Road Hove. He attended a local junior school and later went on to Shoreham Grammar School.

Academic yes but his true love was sport especially football and cricket, specifically his beloved Brighton and Hove Albion. He joined a local football team and it was there he met his closest friends and between them they had many a tale to tell. From an early age he was always seen with a football at his feet and this led, many years later, to one of his most treasured memories

when he was a linesman for Norwich City. The apple of his parents eye's however he had a rebellious side and decided to leave school before he should have done and got himself a job without his parents knowing. They went without to send him to a fee paying school so as you can imagine this was not well received. He then applied for an auditors job at J Sainsbury in London which he duly got and his career with this company flourished. After a few year's a promotion was on the cards but a move to Norfolk – he didn't hesitate and took the opportunity and of course hit the jackpot as he met my Mother there and never looked back.

Mum and Dad were married in October 1963 and lived initially in Fornsett End followed by Fordham in Cambridgeshire with his work, 4 years later they welcomed me. Mum went into labour and Dad went off to referee a football match with the midwife telling him that they could feel my football boots so off he went with a smile on his face only to return to find a bundle of pink, never to be defeated he brought me up to kick a ball and go to football matches with him – if only girls played football when I was at school! (he never did get a boy – two Granddaughters and two Great Granddaughters).

They returned to Norfolk again with his job in 1970 and lived in

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Kenninghall and then moved into their own house in Old Buckenham. Old Buckenham was always a special village to Dad and he became instrumental in building the village hall which was opened in 1978. He spent years fundraising, organising village fetes, dances, bingo etc. I remember fondly his suggestion to me that in the school summer holiday's I should knock on every door in the village and sell raffle tickets – for every book I sold he would give me commission. This encouraged me and I am sure this gave me the foundations to emulate his work ethic. A Christian himself he also worked tirelessly to raise money for the village church overseeing the overhaul of the tower along with raising significant monies for a new thatched roof and ensuring that every grant was applied for. He

was an instigator for the Candlelight Christmas Eve service in this church and many a year it was standing room only for many this was the beginning of Christmas. He was also chairman of the trustees for the Alms Houses in the village and although not on the parish council attended many of the meetings and was not backwards in coming forward if he felt that something should be said.

After promotion with the then Sainsbury Spillers the company was taken over by Dalgety Foods which saw a move to the chicken division at Bury St Edmunds – this factory was then acquired by the Padley Group and it was then that Dad was made redundant and had to re-think his career path. Options were to relocate to Aylesbury or to work for himself which he duly did by buying the Fresh & Frozen Centre in Attleborough. He turned this

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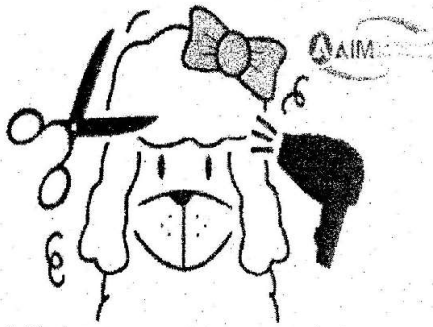
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business around and after 5 years sold this and just concentrated on his egg business which he had started with Mum some year's previous. He continued to do this until semi-retirement came in 2000 Never one not to be doing something he threw himself into raising money for St. Martins Homeless Charity, I guess this came from his own Father as he once told me my Grandfather could not walk past a homeless person without giving them some money. It all started for him with standing at a supermarket entrance with a bucket over the Christmas period whilst also visiting local business for donations and in return their name would be in the Christmas Eve Service sheet at the village church. Always one to spot an opportunity he then started to collect from supermarkets and Garden Centres all year round standing in both cold and hot weather. His tenacity clearly paid

off and raised tens of thousands of pounds for St Martins. In fact last year a new building was opened and named after him, not that he understood this as his illness had started to impact his ability to understand what was going on around him.

One of the most proud moments and memories we have of Dad is receiving an MBE from the then Prince Charles in 2006. You could take three guests so Mum, Olivia and I proudly attended. When Dad first had the letter from the Palace he was completely taken aback and typically did not want to accept it as he genuinely felt that there were others more deserving than him. Along with those who had nominated him we persuaded him otherwise.

Over the last few years thing started to change for Dad and his ability to drive his white egg van caused us great concern. Reluctantly he went off for a driving



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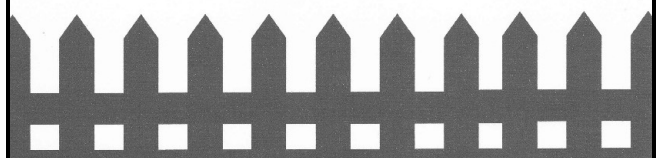
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assessment and no surprise to us he failed. Eventually, he agreed and I held his driving licence and van keys. It was about this time when sadly he then had to stop going to Carrow Road every other week. His memory and balance were deteriorating and after many months of Mum looking after him he went into The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital where he spent many weeks and this was followed by three weeks in Odgen Court in Wymondham. Returning home it was clear that the care that he now needed exceeded what could be offered at home and with great trepidation from his family he went into The Beeches in East Harling. He did not really know where he was but was happy and well cared for which gave us great comfort. Dad then had a chest infection and was taken to West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds which was

where he sadly passed away on Wednesday 28 January. We take enormous comfort in knowing that he did not suffer and passed away peacefully.

An incredible person, an incredible life and an inspiration not only to his family but those who were lucky enough to know him and those who didn't know him but have benefitted from his tireless work.

### All Saints March services

*Sunday 1 March*

10am Group Holy Communion (at Old Buckenham)

*Sunday 8 March*

9.30am Holy Communion

*Wednesday 11 March*

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

*Sunday 15 March*

9.30am Morning Prayer for Mothering Sunday

*Sunday 22 March*

9.30am Holy Communion

*Sunday 29 March*

10am Group Holy Communion for Palm Sunday, at St Martin's New Buckenham (no service at Old Buckenham)

During this period of Lent there is a Bible Study group meeting at New Buckenham Village Hall on Thursday evenings Please see event details on 'A Church Near You' - Old Buckenham page, or contact Rev Sarah Walsh for information.

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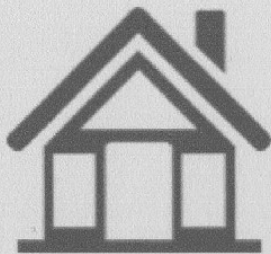
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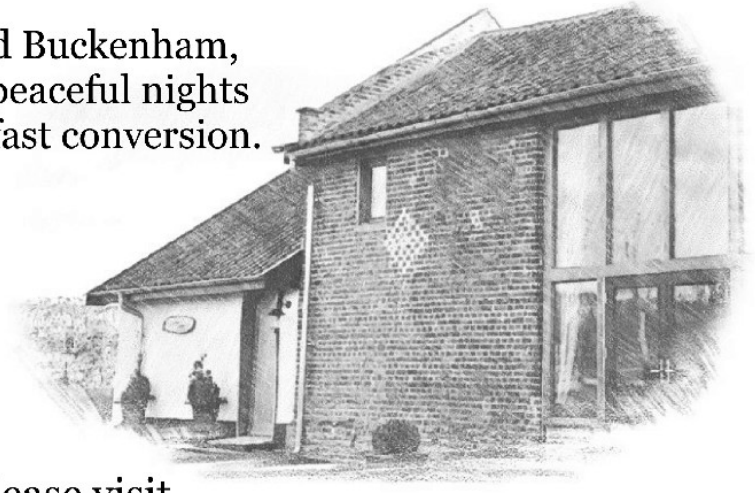
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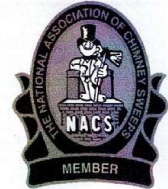
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## Produce and Handicraft Show

The Schedule is now ready and once printed, it will be distributed in the next few months. The Womens Institute have heard from the Lord of the Manor, Rupert Rawcliffe, who with his wife would like to support the Show and be involved.

Tip of the Month: March is a great time to start sowing tomatoes, peppers, celery and onions in a greenhouse or on a windowsill. You can also plant summer-flowering bulbs, onion sets and asparagus. Additionally chit potato tubers and cover soil with black plastic to warm it up for early sowing.

## Bingo starts again

Church prize and cash Bingo starts again in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 March at 2pm. Raffle and refreshments, all very welcome. Donations of raffle prizes to Alison Frank at The Old School House would be gratefully received.

## Parish Council minutes

*The following notes were written by the blog editor from the draft minutes and so may contain information that is changed at a later date.*

Old Buckenham Parish Council met

on Thursday 5 February at Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Steve Gowers, Pete Twissell and Darren Butler. Apologies had been received from David Taylor and Doug Irons who were unable to attend due to work commitments. Also in attendance were Megan Elvin (Clerk) and District Councillor Steve Askew together with three members of the public.

A minute silence was given for Michael Bartlett who died in late January. He was an asset to the village and will be greatly missed by all.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 January were agreed (5 in favour and 1 abstain)

***Financial matters.*** The current bank accounts stood at Barclays Community Account £18,953.85, Lloyds Community Account £3,645.79 and Barclays Charity Account 4,117.90. Payments for approval included £112.95 to the community car drivers, £6048 to Broadland Trees for work on the Green, the Christmas Tree and allotment clearance, £882.02 on skip hire and £37.50 on hire of the Methodist Church. The total payments up to the end of January were £6,709.31 and this was approved (6 in favour).

# 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*

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[clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

**Friday 20 March**

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

*Councillors and District Councillors reports.* Steve Askew said the new unitary Council, Breckland is trying to pass on assets that are Breckland-owned such as the Attleborough car parks to the area council. Norfolk County Council is trying to repair potholes as quickly as they can. The preferred way to report them is to go on the NCC website and report the issue through there. Postponement of the elections meant that they were postponed last year to facilitate the new council and the mayor. Now the mayor elections postponed to 2027 and the county elections have been postponed as well to 2027.

Naomi Bailey has not heard back from the contractor regarding Puddledock. Reported many potholes but please report them as well if you see them. Welcome pack renewal is now in process. The original is very outdated. Started work on new one and then all the work was lost. Lesley Evison asked if the Welcome Pack is a

necessity. The councillors do not know who is moving in and who is moving out. Is it a priority to work on? The groups in Old Buckenham have their own pages which people can utilise. Once it's finished, the information will become outdated again very quickly. Perhaps something to add into the newsletter?

Steve Gower wanted to thank the Community Speed watch team for going out in January, completing two sessions a week and with good results. Pete Twissell reported that the bench around the tree at the top of Abbey Road to be replaced with a memorial plaque and he was asked to carry on with liaising with the family to get this sorted.

***New planning applications.*** Wash Farm, New Buckenham Road, NR17 1PW. Demolition of redundant adjoined outbuildings to enable proposed single-story and two-story extension to existing dwelling farmhouse (PL/2025/1022/HOU). There were no issues and council voted to support (6 in favour).

3 Mill Cottages, Mill Road. Discharge of condition 4 on PL/2025/0167/FMIN. There were no issues and council voted to support (6 in favour).

***Amended applications (for information).*** Tree House, Fen Road. Discharge of condition 4 on

PL/2025/1627/HOU

Access on South-east side of Abbey Road. 500m north-east of Chapel Green School Discharge of Conditions 4 & 5 on PP

PL/2025/1053/FMIN

Albermarle House, The Green. Pine Tree – Removal (PL/2026/0068/TCA)

***E-Learning on planning***

***applications.*** If any councillors would like to carry out the training, then this is okay. Breckland planning is not user friendly.

***Green Working***

***Committee.*** Woodchipper is very useful bit of kit and there is a log book that people have to read and complete before use. Risk assessments are required and this is non-negotiable. All are required to do these for insurance purposes. It is stored by Stan Burton in a locked area. Expenses for using woodchipper (fuel, oil, etc) to be reimbursed by the Parish Council. Stan Burton is to become a member of the Committee as a Green Rights Holder and Darren Butler to potentially step in as a Parish Council member. He will attend their next meeting.

***Ottomer Pond (ongoing).*** The Clerk is still waiting for response from Water management team at NCC regarding chasing the private land side of things.

***Parking (ongoing).*** Have contacted the High School and the Primary

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**Our next meeting is on**  
**Thursday 26 February at 7.30pm in**  
**Old Buckenham Village Hall**

**Our speaker for this month is Nanna Lay**  
**who will be demonstrating to us what a**  
**Danish Easter is like with its traditions.**

We have refreshments with home-made  
 cakes/biscuits, a raffle and competitions. we also  
 have Book Group, Gardening Group, Scrabble  
 meetings and a Graft Group which meet every  
 month. We are a friendly group of women of all ages  
 and welcome new members and visitors to come and  
 see us.

For more information contact Delia Webster on  
 07947 013200 or email us on  
[oldbuckenhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:oldbuckenhamwi@gmail.com)



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House. Expect to close the project in the summer once the testing and commissioning has been completed.

*Community Car Scheme.* Still waiting for a councillor to take on this position. The Clerk and RFO to organise applying for the funding this month. DBS checks need to be done for everyone. Once new paperwork in place a plea for more volunteers will be made.

*Drainage and embankment on Hargham Road/Post Office Road.* Clerk to compose a letter out to the owners. Posts to go in to prevent cars from driving over the new drain.

*Annual Parish Meeting.* This was fixed for Saturday 13 June from 10am to noon.

*Assertion 10.* The Government have brought out the requirement for Council's to conform to the new Assertion 10. This requires the council to have one generic email address on a council-owned domain. They will eventually require Councillors to have a council-owned domain email as well. This is not currently a requirement. Gmail accounts are not allowed as they are not secure. Same with the website. This needs to be a council owned domain. They would prefer Gov.UK addresses but this is not a requirement.

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The Clerk's email and the website are okay as we own this domain. Should we wish to switch to a Gov.uk address, NALC offer the following service: fully .gov.uk email service. The cost is £106+VAT per year. This will provide a .gov.uk domain name and an unlimited number of 10GB email accounts. No need to go for this yet if we conform to the current guidelines. An IT policy will be issued in March's meeting to conform to the final part of Assertion 10.

*Approve an Internal Auditor.* List of internal auditors have not yet been provided by NALC.

*Costs for Fen Street speed limit change.* The study lists TRO costs at £3000 and this will be legal fees from Nplaw and advert costs and design fee to carry out the consultation. The remaining £5500 will be the works costs, a bit of the designers' fee to pull the contract documents together, so approx. £4000 in materials and labour and traffic management with the remaining £1500 being fees for the designer and contractor fee. Steve Askew would put 50% of the costs towards it out of his councillor funding. Old Buckenham Parish Council would need to fund the remaining 50%. Need to ask the residents how much they would be willing to put in and then decide.

*Repairs to the Green.* David Tranmer has now been informed that the repairs will be carried out by professionals and invoiced to him. The ground needs rotavating and top-soiled along with the seeds. Still waiting for quotes for the repairs.

*Volunteer Meet and Greet Day.* Sixteen organisations have expressed an interest to come. Parish Council to attend with information about the Council and requests for volunteers. Event will be on Saturday 25 April from 10am to 12.30pm.

*Resurface outside Village Shop.* Steve Gower to provide details of some companies for Clerk to get quotes from.

*Footpaths around village.* Steve Gower still waiting for full quotes for March. There is funding that is now being issued to contribute to footpaths and the Clerk to look into this funding.

*Bike ramps.* Naomi Bailey has been asked if some bike ramps can be installed in Prince Harry's Wood. Not had anything further about it with a plan from the resident. Should the Council provide this – the maintenance costs would come down to the parish council, a councillor would need to be responsible for the upkeep. Unless more information comes to light it is not feasible at the moment.

**Public participation.** The question was asked whether the website could have a page for useful links like bus time tables, local doctors, etc? After the meeting in April the Council should have an up-to-date list of village organisations.

**Next agenda.** This is expected to include Crown Road parking and repairs, Ottomer Pond, parking in general, Green Working Committee, repairs to the Green, volunteer Meet & Greet day, Solar Farm and Community Cars.

**Exclusion of the press and public.** The Council is invited to resolve that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of a request regarding village signage, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive information and relates to the personal circumstances of individuals. [Closed Session]

Discussion of Signage Sensitivity. The signs are the responsibility of the Council. At the moment, one family wishing for the signs to be removed is not a reason to remove the signs. The proposal was rejected (6 in favour).

*The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 5 March in Old Buckenham Village Hall at 7.30pm.*

## **Frog time again!**

Just a reminder that Spring is approaching and the frogs and toads will be heading back to the ponds for their annual breeding. The main crossing points are between both the Churchyard entrance and the Village Green, and Ottomer Pond. If you're out in the evening you may see them, **please** be aware of them when driving and walking. If you decide to try and see any safely across the road, carefully placing them a short distance away from the road on the pond side is good enough, they'll carry on their journey from there. We are not an organised group and no risk assessment or training has been completed so you will be doing this 'at your own risk' – don't do anything that might put you or others in any danger. Let's hope for a Happy Froglife breeding season this year!

## **Meet your village people**

Hopefully you will all have heard about the event in the Village Hall on Saturday 25 April - an open morning with refreshments (coffee, tea, soft drinks, cake, and more cake!) where you will be able to meet representatives from about 20 different village groups and societies. This is a chance for you to find out what goes on in Old Buckenham behind the doors of



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the Village Hall, chapel, church as well as out and about. Maybe something you find out about that day will become your new passion. If you are reading this and wondering whether your group is being represented please check, as we don't want to miss anyone out, we want as many organisations as possible to come along and set out their stall. Contact Alison Hannah or Sally Honour for more details.

**The Bucks Photoshow is back**  
We'll be sharing full details soon, but in the meantime we'd love to hear from local photographers who might like to exhibit. The dates are Thursday 8 to Sunday 10 May.  
Whether you're a seasoned pro or

just starting out, all abilities are very welcome! If you're interested or just want to find out more, email Sonya of New Buckenham Arts on [photoshow@newbuckenham.net](mailto:photoshow@newbuckenham.net)

### Windmill opening days

Confirmed opening dates are:

Sunday 19 April

Sunday 10 May (Mills Weekend)

Sunday 7 June

Sunday 19 July

Sunday 23 August

Sunday 13 September and

Sunday 11 October,

There is a volunteer clean up day on the Monday 13 April.

Volunteers for that day should email

[contact@oldbuckenhamwindmill.org.uk](mailto:contact@oldbuckenhamwindmill.org.uk) if they can help.

## Village Hall news

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 4 February. Those present were Acting Chair Stacey Reed, Secretary Ian Coyle, Hall manager and Booking clerk Stacey Reed, Alison Frank, Teresa Kemp, Pete Twissell, Tracey Hayden, Graham Dye, Jay Lucas and Jenny Devaux .

Apologies were received from Gina Stanfield and Eileen Oliver while Pete Twissell, was unable to attend the beginning part of the meeting. Minutes of last meeting agreed and signed.

The hall's gardener said the grass hasn't been cut due to weather. It needs scarifying to remove moss and re-seeding. Committee agreed to this.

There are still some Village Hall at tables at All Saints church, these still need to be collected.

The Village hall Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for the precept grant they kindly gave the Hall to fund the new website.

Income this year is around 23k. Regular users hire income has dropped by around 5% however this has been offset by an increase in one off users hire. The income this year is approximately the same as last year but the Hall will sustain a loss of about 3k this

year due to a rise in costs, mainly cleaning and legal costs for CIO. Hopefully the transfer a CIO will be completed by end of 2026. The Hall has received lots of enquiries regarding hall hire for children parties etc. Also private education cooking class, new weekly Yoga class, Martial Arts class and Line Dancing starting soon.

The Hall now has an instagram page. Kitchen extractor fans have been cleaned as best as possible, however they probably need professional cleaning. The ovens could also benefit from cleaning. Hall manager will look at getting a contractor to quote to do this on a regular basis.

Handyman quote to do outstanding jobs, ie guttering, cement around manhole cover, plaster repair in store cupboard is £390.73 and committee agreed to have this done. Solar lights for outside £15 each from Amazon, the committee agreed to purchase these. The Hall now has a second clothes bin.

Suggestions for future events included Chris Skinner and Anna Hill (both talks on farming), speaker from Banham Zoo, Solstice event/well being event, talk on flowers/gardening, murder mystery evening, quarterly Artisan Markets,

monthly indoor boot sales and produce market.

New website should be live very soon. Future meetings will remain at 6pm start with eleven meetings per year. Next meeting is Wednesday 4 March at 6pm.

### **Christian Aid Quiz**

This year's quiz will be held on Saturday 21 March in Old Buckenham Village Hall (NR17 1RH) where there is ample parking. They are not serving fish and chips this year – please bring your own drinks and (cold) food. There will be a 20 minute break at half time. The cost per person is just £8. Maximum 6 in a team. Please pay as a group on the night. Arrive from 6.30pm for a prompt start at 7pm. Each team is asked to bring an attractive raffle prize. Please book your teams in with Dorothy (01953 456211), giving your team name and a contact telephone number.

### **Local football**

*This is a message from Becky.* I would also like to thank the Parish Council for their precept grant which has supported our local children playing football in New Buckenham. I have the pleasure of looking after our U7s New Buckenham Football team. We have five team members from Old Buckenham and seven are in

Old Buckenham schools. The other teams also have players from our village. The whole Under 7s team are thoroughly enjoying their football which benefits both their physical and mental health and helps them to form good relationships and work as a team. They have achieved a 100% behaviour record (voted by the opposition) so far this season.

### **Green Working Committee**

Their next volunteering day is Saturday 7 March. They are looking for volunteers to help collect and pile up fallen branches and twigs across the Green ready for chipping. They will also be doing a litter pick.

### **Spring exhibition**

Do you know of the Impatiens Patchwork and Quilting Group? Meeting monthly in New Buckenham Village Hall it is thriving, friendly collection of stitching enthusiasts from the local area. Do come and see their work at the upcoming Spring Exhibition, a colourful and varied display of textile art and craft. You'd be very welcome. Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April from 10am to 4pm each day. Admission is free. Sit and enjoy a drink and piece of cake in New Buckenham Village Hall. Put the dates in your diary, they'd love to see you there.

## 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**

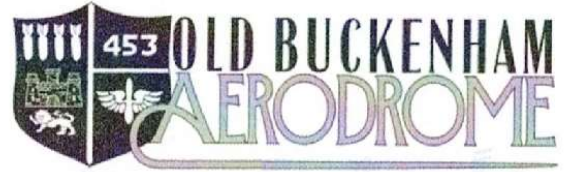
**Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261**

## Diary dates for March

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

Monday 2	Shelf pop-up shop at Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am
Thursday 5	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Friday 6	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Saturday 7	Green working party and litter pick
Wednesday 11	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Thursday 12	Social Circle, Village Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 14	Church Prize and Cash Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm
Monday 16	Shelf pop-up shop at Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am
Friday 20	Copy date for April newsletter
Saturday 21	Christian Aid Quiz, Village Hall, 6.30pm for 7pm
Thursday 26	Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 30	Shelf pop-up shop at Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am

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



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