

Old Buckenham Newsletter



May 2024



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The sponsors this month this month are Jean and Tim Bornett. Jean and Tim have lived in the parish for almost 17 years this coming June. They have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, excellent clubs and societies plus pubs, wine bars and pub-related food. They feel the Green issues appear to be largely resolved with a consensus after years of conflict.

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. The months left for this year are just August and September. Should there be a special occasion that you wish to celebrate before then you may be able to share a month with someone else.

Will you be there?

Old Buckenham Players is presenting "Is There Anybody There?" as its next production. This dark comedy by Martin Paul Roche will be performed in our Old Buckenham Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May.

The play is an exploration of female friendship, life after love, and what might lie ahead. This full-length play is a rewardingly profound piece and the Players look forward to sharing with you in a few short weeks time. Come along and see it for yourselves.

As usual all performances will be accompanied by a great raffle and one of the most reasonably priced bars around. Tickets are available now for £10 each at ticketsource.co.uk/

oldbuckenhamplayers so don't delay and order now.

Come and see the Mill

The first official opening of the new season at Old Buckenham's own windmill took place on the afternoon Sunday 21 April when the new refreshment 'shed' was put through its paces. Visitors gathered to try the drinks and cakes with many of them also going on a guided tour of the historic building too. The next Open Day will be on Sunday 5 May when you can come along between 1pm and 4pm for your tour and/or homemade cake feast. It is amazing how many people have lived in Old Buckenham for years and not looked inside and climbed up the various stairs inside. Why not spend this coming Bank

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>

Holiday Sunday scaling the heights and trying the tasty baking?

Busy at the bookshop

A Thursday evening in March saw bestselling author Louis de Bernières, who dubs himself the 'Real Duke of Norfolk', visit Old Buckenham to discuss his recent novel. *Light Over Liskeard* is an apocalyptic novel set in our, perhaps not too distant, future where AI has taken such a level of control over day to day lives, that humanity itself is at risk.

Some 40 guests gathered in All Saints Church and the Old School Bookshop to hear Louis talking about his book, writing and career. The audience was treated to humorous tales and also some poetry readings from the author on what was World Poetry Day. Then everyone had a chance to meet and chat with Louis as he signed their books. Feedback from the event was really positive and there are plans to invite Louis back for further events including a music evening and also arrange other author events in the future. A limited number of copies of 'Light Over Liskeard' can be obtained from the Old School Bookshop. Owner of the Old School Bookshop, Lucie, expressed thanks to the local



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community - residents and readers - for their ongoing support and for sharing a magical evening.

Then Old School Bookshop's Book Club met on Thursday 11 April to discuss the novel 'The Bookshop' written by Penelope Fitzgerald. The members really enjoyed the efficient writing style and witty humour of the book as Fitzgerald depicted the brave decision of Florence, a widow living in a coastal Suffolk town in the 1950s, to open a bookshop. Florence faced both support and resistance from the local residents, ghostly happenings in her haunted bookshop, and the challenges of bringing controversial new books to the local reading community.



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They explored themes of loneliness, courage, betrayal and the wider book industry. Personally for Lucie of the Old School Bookshop, it was incredibly interesting to read the book as someone who has also recently opened a bookshop, and even 60 years on there are similar challenges and joys faced by a book seller in a rural community (apart from the level of local resistance Florence faced!). If you would like to join the book club, you can find out more at oldschoolbookshop.co.uk

Alternative date

Apologies to those of you who were expecting to take part in the Alternative Quiz at the Methodist Church but, because of a large number of people not being able to come, the quiz will now be held this month. The reason for the quiz is to raise money for St Martins Housing Trust so it seemed better to change the date.

The new date for the quiz is Saturday 25 May at 7pm. If you would like to take part please either email oldbuckenham.methodist@aol.com or phone 01953 861207.

More about Tony Petley

Ten-year-old Tony Petley may have failed in his bid to fly with the crew of a Liberator bomber from Old Buckenham in 1944, but he was more successful in another wartime

role...as a spy-hunter. Here's the second part of his wartime memoir.

Despite my father's instruction, I continued to go to the airfield on a regular basis. It had become an essential part of my young life. Occasionally though, I would devote time to another exciting pursuit in support of the war effort...spy-hunting.

The unlikely setting for this operation was The Warren, the wooded area on the other side of the village from the aerodrome. And, improbable though it seems, one day my spy-catching ambitions actually turned into a real-life drama.

I was standing just inside the wood when a stranger cycled slowly past. A little further on he got off his bike and pushed it off the road and among the trees. He was acting very furtively and I crept towards him and hid behind a holly bush about 20 yards away. My mouth was dry with fear and my heart was thumping so loudly I was sure he would discover me. I saw him look at his watch for about a minute and then take a shoe box off the carrier on his cycle. He opened it up and took out a radio, pulled up an aerial and began speaking into a microphone. I could not hear what he said but after a minute or two, he replaced the apparatus, made

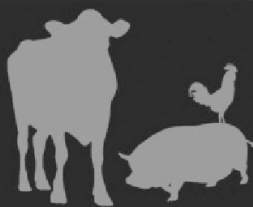
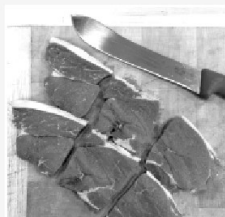
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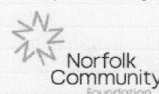
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his way back to the road and, ensuring the coast was clear, cycled away.

I was still almost petrified with fear but I crept to the edge of the road and watched him disappear around a corner. And then I ran, like I had never run before, across the fields and home.

My father was there when I burst into the yard and asked me what was the matter. I breathlessly recounted what I had witnessed and he immediately got on his bike and rode to the nearest phone box. It was some weeks later when Dad told me he had phoned the police with my story and they had caught the spy, complete with his transmitter, about five miles away in East Harling.

As more and more evacuee children came to our school, a shift system of lessons was adopted to cope with the increased numbers. My friends and I attended morning classes for a week and then afternoon classes the next week. This gave us more time to spend on the aerodrome.

One midsummer day, a friend and I went to the airmen's huts and found the crews had all been given the day off. Some were going to Norwich for the afternoon and asked me whether

I should like them to bring me something back. I said the only thing I wanted was a book about Liberators and to my delight they bought me just that, a book titled "Bombers at War".

Whilst they were away, we went over to a hut where one of the ground crew was sitting on the doorstep cleaning his overalls in a bathtub filled with aviation fuel. My friend even gave him a hand by washing his cap. I had a box of matches with me and suggested my pal put a little fuel on the ground about 15 yards away so I could set fire to it and see how it burned.

While the airman was distracted, my friend carried some fuel over in his cap. Stupidly we didn't appreciate how flammable the fuel was or notice the trail that the leaky cap had left on the ground.

I struck a match and to my horror the flame raced back to the bath of fuel which immediately burst alight. For some reason, the startled airman dragged the blazing tub inside the hut. His panicked colleagues rushed over with extinguishers and put the fire out, but not before the flames scorched paint on the walls and singed some bedding.

As well as finding out about aeroplanes, I also learned a lot about life from what I saw and heard around the airfield. Sometimes I would see prostitutes loitering on

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SATURDAY	9.00am Old Buck Village Hall	

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the road leading to the base. There were also occasional feuds between airmen which were only to be expected considering the enormous stresses they were under.

I witnessed one argument between my gunner pals in Captain Love's crew. The tail gunner called for his colleagues to take turns in the tail turret as it was the most hazardous and demanding position. His suggestion was adopted but it led to some ill-feeling between the men. On one mission, the top gunner returned to his own position after a spell in the tail to find a pair of gloves there. After they disembarked from the plane at Old Buckenham, and discovering the gloves belonged to the official tail gunner, he told him: "If I'd known they were yours I'd have thrown them out over Germany." I was often invited to share food (or

"chow" as they called it) with the airmen. On one occasion a waist gunner called Red Brummel walked up to the hot plate to get his meal. He selected a generous helping of meat, vegetables and gravy – with grapefruit and custard for pudding. As he went to take his seat, he stood on the catering officer's toes. The latter was a short, rotund man with a boyish voice. There was little love lost between him and the aircrew, and on this occasion his pride was probably hurt as much as his foot. "You bloody gunners think you own the place, but you will not stand on my toes. You'll find yourself on a charge, aircrew or no aircrew," his piping voice railed at Red, to the great amusement of the other diners.

But there was, of course, always a more serious side to life on base where the dangers faced by those who took to the air were sometimes

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cruelly demonstrated within sight and sound of the village. They included at least three instances of Liberators exploding on, or shortly after, take-off.

One of these disasters happened on a Sunday morning as I was going home from Sunday school. My brother, his friend and I went across the fields to look at the wreckage but we were spotted and chased away as there were still live bombs scattered around which were about to be detonated. I was first out of the danger area but, on looking back, my brother and his friend were nowhere to be seen, so I went back to find them. Suddenly I stumbled across them taking cover in a ditch along with the man who had been pursuing us. "Get into the ditch, they're blowing bombs," he shouted. And we had to stay there while the air-splitting blasts went on around us.

I used to listen on the radio to Lord Haw-Haw, the Nazi propagandist,

and one night I heard him say that movie star Jimmy Stewart was flying from Old Buckenham. "How do you men of the 453rd at Old Buckenham feel with a famous film star in your midst?" he sneered.

Thankfully for all of us, the efforts and sacrifices of my American friends and their allied comrades in the air, on land and at sea were eventually rewarded with victory. To a small boy, however, for whom it had all been a great adventure, there was inevitable disappointment in the realisation that the focus of my life for over a year was coming to an end, and my friends would be taken from me to resume their lives in a far-off country.

Acceptance of this deprivation was made somewhat easier, though, by an event which took place a few weeks before the end of the war. My idol, Captain Love, and his crew were shot down over Holland. Fortunately all survived but they



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were sent straight back to the States. I suppose I knew then that my romance with the 453rd was over and Old Buckenham would never be the same again. Larry Love did, however, write to me for many years after the war, as did the gunners who had befriended me and continued to regard me as their little English mascot.

Robin Anthony (known as "Tony") Petley was born in Old Buckenham where he attended school. He lived all his life in the village and neighbouring Attleborough, and will be remembered by many as the driver of a baker's delivery van. He died in 2005 aged 71.

Next time...Dancing in the dark days of war

All Saints services in May

Sunday 5 May

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 12 May

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 19 May

10am Holy Communion for Pentecost - Group service

Sunday 26 May

9.30am Holy Communion

News from the Almshouses

There was a good response to the almshouse vacancy advertisement in the April newsletter so it will not need to be repeated in this May issue. Also a thank you note to the

village shop for allowing another donation tin to be filled. All of the donations are being saved for the roof refurbishment and are very welcome.

Bingo continues

Thank you to those kind people who have donated prizes to the Church Bingo. They always need more! The next two sessions of Bingo are on Saturday 11 May and Saturday 8 June, starting as usual at 2pm in the Village Hall.

Village Hall AGM

This was held on Wednesday 3 April in the Village Hall. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Richard Crawley, Secretary; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Jane Kelly, Booking Clerk; Pete Twissell, Parish Council representative; Alison Frank; Rosemary Pratt; Tracey Hayden and Terry Cook. Ron Brewer was the sole member of the public who made the effort to come along. Apologies for not being able to attend had been received from Chris Dalton and Jay Lucas. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

The treasurer ran through the accounts of the preceding year and distributed copies of the full accounts. Over the year there has been some falls in income and

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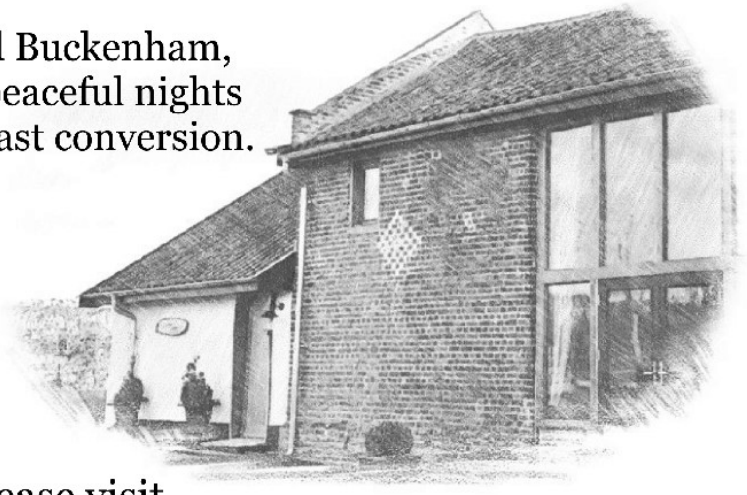
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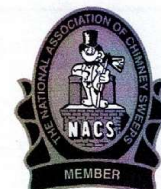
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increases in costs. The major costs are investments in our future viability. Although the hall is in a good place financially, it has had to rely increasingly on paid professionals rather than volunteers.

General public questions were next and the only member of the public there expressed his support for the drama productions invited to use the hall and hoped they would continue.

The chairperson hoped that new members could be recruited to the committee to help with succession planning and ensure the future of the Village Hall as a resource for the whole village.

The next AGM will be on Wednesday 2 April 2025.

More news from Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 3 April. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Richard Crawley, Secretary; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Jane Kelly, Booking Clerk; Pete Twissell, Parish Council representative; Alison Frank; Rosemary Pratt; Terry Cook and Tracey Hayden.

Following the AGM, all trustees had expressed a willingness to continue on the committee and in the post they held so an election was unnecessary. The Chairperson

announced that she would stay on for another year. The secretary and the booking clerk announced that they were planning to move house but would be willing to stay on in post until such time that they move away but were also willing to stand down whenever the committee wished to replace them to establish continuity for the committee.

In view of three upcoming vacancies on the committee, it was felt important to recruit members and invite user groups to put representatives forward to the committee. There were user groups who had no reps on the committee and other bodies that might be considered such as the Bookshop, the pubs and the parents' associations. The treasurer will email users groups and put a notice in the newsletter to invite responses.

The Parish Council representative brought a proposal that meetings between members of the Parish Council and the Management Committee should be combined with the Parish Council "Saturday Surgery", which occurs on the last Saturday of each month. The committee's view was that the meetings should be between members of each committee and not part of a public meeting. It was proposed that, twice a year, the Parish Council meeting be curtailed

OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk and RFO

Jonnathan Hicks

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

early to facilitate a meeting between Parish Council and Management Committee representatives. He also reported that the Parish Council had asked if the Management Committee would be willing for the car park to be used to relieve parking in the village for other events. The committee view was that there were times when this would not be convenient, for example at school drop off and collection times. As for using the car park as an overflow from "Two Wheel Tuesday," it was felt imperative that this be controlled by stewards to prevent overcrowding in the car park, and again care should be taken to avoid times when user groups were parked at the hall. People have sometimes booked the use of car park and Village Hall facilities for Church events, eg weddings and funerals and the same could be done by Two Wheel Tuesday organisers too. The Management Committee wished to emphasise that the car park was not a free

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

by

Monday 20 May

Contributions by email to
obnewspostbox@aol.com

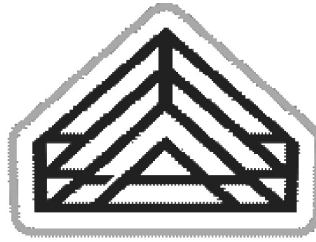
public car park but for hirers of the hall and parents of Primary school children by purchased permits. Volunteers had been found to help when offering the car park to the public over the Air Show weekend. The annual Renewal of Music Licence, Insurance and Hall Master subscription was in hand. The Declarations of Trustees' Eligibility were now all signed and would be sent off to CAN.

The Booking Clerk reported that fewer social events, parties, etc, were being booked, perhaps due to financial constraints. There were good reliable bookings from First Aid in the Memorial Hall on a regular basis but the committee were concerned about the rising costs of utility providers and general maintenance.

Anglian Water have been contacted about a possible leak. The Hall has been unable to locate anything internally or externally around the building but this doesn't exclude any underground issues there may be from the meter to our property. Water use has been monitored by taking regular meter readings. Small repair jobs are required around the hall. These are mainly just general upkeep but include cleaning the light fittings and fans which may well require a platform. Village Electricals have been contacted for updates on any work needed as they were

considering some updates to the lighting all round. Whiterod at Snetterton have also been contacted with the markings for the car park. James at the Airfield has been asked about the upkeep of the little museum in the Memorial Room and he is hopeful about updating the displays in the cabinets at the same time. An ant invasion occurs in the same spots every year at the hall but it is particularly early this year. It is not helped by the hirers not emptying their bins.

As part of the review of charges the committee were presented with an overview of charges levied by other local Village Halls. Although there were many differences in what was charged over and above the hall spaces, it appeared that Old Buckenham was cheaper all round. This was partly because of lower standard charges and partly because other venues charged extra for kitchen use, bar use and for a minimum two hour booking. It was felt best to scrap the pre- and post-6pm charges and have one single day rate. There should be separate rates for children's parties and social events. The commercial rate will be an additional 25% to the standard rate as agreed at the last meeting. Regular users would be charged less than occasional users as before. To simplify administration, no extra charge



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would be made for kitchen or bar use. Final decisions on charges will be notified in due course.

Future events include a production of "Elephants" on Friday 14 June. Also on Wednesday 24 July, the producers of the Harleston event will run front of house and hire the hall. The Village Hall will run the bar.

Other business included the donated painting of the Mill to be hung in the Memorial Room and there has been a request that the operation for hoisting and lowering flag in the Main Hall be made lower so that it is in within reach of children in the Scouts. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 1 May.

Old Buckenham Parish Council

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 11 April at Old Buckenham Methodist Chapel. Councillors present were Naomi Bailey(Chair), Leslie Evison, Pete Twissell, Stan Burton, Steve Gowers, David Taylor, Doug Irons and Ali McWilliam. Also attending were Jonn Hicks (Clerk) and six members of the public.

The minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7 March were approved (7 in favour 1 abstain).

Financial matters. The Precept payment from Breckland was £11,420.50 which brought the Community Account balance to £30,481.66. Payments of £4093.71 were approved (8 in favour). These included £201.65 to the community car drivers, £100 for grass cutting and £311.61 for membership of the National Association of Local Councils. Also included were the Precept Grants that had been paid:
Old Buckenham Village Hall £1000
Old Buckenham Primary School Family Association £250
Old Buckenham Primary School Family Association Preloved £200
Monday Mardle £125
Almshouse Trust £500
Fawns £250
R.O.B.S (?) £250
Windmill Trust £500

Two Wheel Tuesday. David Tranmer has acquired the materials to make good the areas of the Green which were damaged during last year's events.

Councillor reports. Ali McWilliam reported that the allotments are beginning to come to life and looking very tidy. She said the drainage ditch inside the perimeter needs clearing and the Clerk is to write to the land owner to request

this is undertaken sooner rather than later.

Pete Twissell has removed a section of the new hedging on the Recreation Area to allow access for a tractor and has replanted the removed saplings on the footpath side of the field. He also reported that the Village Hall committee would like to meet with the Parish Council during May. He had also spoken to the Village Hall Committee regarding the use of their car park when Two Wheel Tuesday is taking place. Their committee was not opposed but will need to check that the hall is not in use on those nights so that is no conflict of use. The Clerk to suggest to David Tranmer that he makes a donation to the hall at the end of each season as a goodwill gesture.

Steve Gower reported that he has gained another two volunteers for the community Speedwatch group. Also that the batteries for the SAM Sign need replacing and that they available from Westcote at £86 each. The Clerk to investigate if can get them for a better price through his employer.

David Taylor asked about overgrown footpath from the Country Park to New Buckenham. The Clerk advised that this was not a Parish Council issue but it was the responsibility of the land owners who have a duty to ensure they are

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Naomi Bailey has had correspondence with the 'owners' of the bench that has been flooded by the waters in Ottomer Pond and the bench base concerns which will be reviewed when it is safe to do so. Following a meeting with Highways she now has written correspondence that Highways are not responsible for the ditch, roadway or pathway leading up to the Primary school. Should anybody wish to clear a ditch on their property and they have been told by Highways they are not allowed to, this is wrong as they are in fact allowed to. Highways do not have the budget to clear every ditch in Norfolk and are grateful for the help from residents.

Also Naomi Bailey reported that she, Leslie Evison and the Clerk had a meeting with the Highways Engineer at NCC who has ensured everyone that Old Buckenham is on the list for drainage and ditch clearing as well as pot hole repairs but also pointed out that due to the severe weather this winter they are rather busy but he will chase contactors. They also pointed out that the new steps they fitted at Manor Corner were rather a poor effort considering the cost of the project. The Clerk informed him that the Parish Council felt let down with the quality of the steps

and the work involved.

The Clerk will attend a meeting at County Hall with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the flooding situation caused by the infilling of the ditch at West View Farm.

The Chair and the Clerk received a letter from MP George Freeman asking to attend a meeting for which he has been formally invited (the monthly surgery in May).

Action Log updates. Doug Irons and Steve Gowers gave all members a run through of the electronic version of the action log and also asked all members to keep this updated so that the Parish Council can report to village each month what has been done and what is still needed.

Planning applications. Access from the west on to Buckenham Road. Widening and enhancements to the existing agricultural access to create a temporary construction access onto Buckenham Road (3PL/2024/0285/F). Approved (8 in favour)

Development Plot at Poplar Farm, Fen Road NR17 1NP. Demolition of existing building (with extant permission to convert to a dwelling) and the erection of New Single Dwelling and Cartlodge, and Change of Use of Agricultural Land to Domestic Curtilage (Revised Scheme)

3PL/2020/1009/F. Approved (8 in

favour)

Other business. Stan Burton and Pete Twissell reported that only two members of the public attended the Surgery on Saturday 30 March but this was a bank holiday weekend so perhaps people had other plans.

(Steve Gowers departed the meeting)

Items for next agenda. These will include flooding update, the burial ground, allotment security and the Local Plan.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 2 May starting at 7.30pm at Old Buckenham Methodist Chapel.

Celebrating village life

Links with Old Buckenham dating back more than 100 years were celebrated this week when members of one of the village's best known families made a sentimental journey back in time. Focus of the gathering was "the Boy from Rod Alley", John Loveday, whose book of that title has stirred the imaginations of villagers present and past.

Descendants of some of those mentioned in his memoir about growing up in Old Buckenham in the 1930s were among those who met at the Gamekeeper for a celebration of family and friendship. The pub – called The White Horse in John's day – is just yards away from where their parents and

grandparents lived and worked in a very different era of local trade, employment and education.

John turns 98 this week and was unable to make the journey himself from his care home near Basingstoke but was instrumental in promoting the visit. His daughter Sharon Brunsden drove up from Berkshire accompanied by her uncle, John Houchin – originally from Attleborough – and Don Cronshaw, the son-in-law who grew to love the village after his marriage to Marina, John Loveday's late daughter.

Sharon and her cousins Caroline Lindenmayer, Vivienne Robinson and Kelly Loveday – all grandchildren of Tom and Kathleen Loveday, who lived at 4 Rod Alley Row – were also joined at the Gamekeeper by John's sister Barbara Robinson.

Others with roots in the village attended as well; some had never met the Loveday family members before but have been corresponding regularly about their shared links with village history. They included Tom and Cynthia Walshe. Tom's mother, Marjorie and grandfather, Wiggy Westfield, were mentioned in the book, Marjorie having been born in the same year as John. Richard Styles also attended. His sister, Betty, knew John well and their father,

Charlie, was one of the village's longest lived residents, reaching the age of 101 before his death in 2009. Newsletter and blog editor Ron Brewer was also present to record the occasion for village interest.

Conversation was lively and amusing with many interesting historical facts arising. Sharon said that she had wanted to meet those who had been so interested in her father's book and keeping in touch with him. She added that John Loveday's love for, and interest in, Old Buckenham village life remains as strong as ever.

Jewel of a meeting

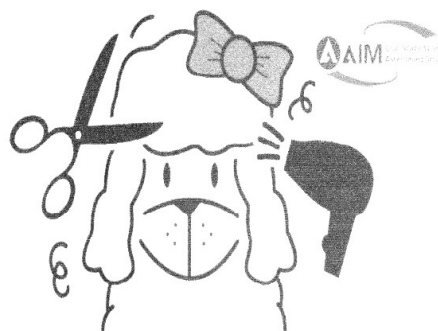
Old Buckenham WI belong to a group of WIs called the Gilt Cross Group and had a meeting on Thursday 18 April at Old Buckenham Village Hall with Jason Middleton as the speaker. Jason gave a talk about the history of jewellery right back to the Stone Age where they used natural materials such as bone, wood and sea shells. Gold appeared in Egyptian times with gemstones which were found in the tombs of their rulers and this is how people found out about jewellery through the times. It was buried through the ages in the graves of very important and wealthy people which gave an insight into how these items were made. It was

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amazing to see how intricate designs were all those years ago and how important it was to royalty and nobility. Jason chatted about the different types of metal used in the process and the gemstones. He passed round 'loops' so that members could look at their own jewellery through the lens very closely which revealed a multitude of things including dirt! A very interesting evening. Had a competition for a 'Brooch' with over 30 entries and it was lovely to see so many different shapes, designs and colours.

Still time to learn

The Attleborough Lifelong Learning has now announced its talks over the summer. First there is Crime and Criminal Justice in East Anglia, a three-week summer course by Mark Mower who is a well known crime writer and historian. The talks will be held in Attleborough Town Hall on Friday 7, 14 and 21 June from 10am to noon with coffee and biscuits. Mark is a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and writes both fictional and non-fictional crime stories. The three presentations will look at: Beyond the "Bloody Code" [Local crime & Punishment in 19th century], Shocking, Sensational and Salacious [Key

19th century murders] and Crime on the Home Front [Criminality during the World Wars and the official responses].

The cost is £21 including refreshments. Email

attleboroughll@gmail.com or telephone 01953 455995 for more details and registration.

The other series of short lectures is on "The Commonwealth War Graves Commission" by Nik Chapman CBE. It will run for three weeks from Friday 5 to Friday 19 July on mornings from 10am to noon. After a successful career in the British army from boy soldier to high-ranking officer, Nik Chapman is involved in many local Norfolk charities and community projects. Among these many current roles, Nik volunteers with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and will go through the history of the Commission from creation and controversy to its current world-wide role. In the third week he will lead a field study at Earlham Cemetery to examine the local examples. Booking details as listed earlier.

Talking with Red Van Man

Hi up ole boye sa Red Van Man, wot be yew ar finking ar bote? Wel I wus ar lisiten tew fre or for blokes ar torkin tha pub arn hew it usars thar Grene in frunt orf it.

I dint nowe thart thar Parish Council char thar pub ar rite lort orf munie, thar carnt be rite ken it? I dunt now sa Red Van Man, I spose thar code char sum fink, but tha ole pub be par orn tha vilarg. It ent jus Tew Wele Tusdar, durin thar sumar ar rite lort orf visitars sit orn thar benckars eatar thar sarn wiches arn bieing ar drink. Yew code sar it's thar vocarl ponte orf ar vilarg, nufik else hapen orn thar Grene lik it ust tew ar few yars argo.

Yea times chang, folowin genarashuns dunt hev tha intares as thar ust tew. I remembar tha shepe ar be nen orn tha Grene wit thar lames. Arn tha gras be en arn baled fur hay, thar wus ar few evens wen tha Fun Far ust tew cum.

Wel ole man, tha Parish Council due cut tha Grene tew or fre times ar yar, yew het tew armit it loke rite gode.

These har blokes wus ar say en, tha Parish Council wus corn cend ware tha gras wus worn ar way in frunt orf thar pub. Wunt tha be corn cend ar bote thar res orf tha Grene, ware more arn more pepal walk, sum orn them ar exercsing thar dorgs. Thars orlsoe tha damage dun bi vecarls parked bie tha kids pla gronde, sum foke may fink its rite dangerous as it blokes tha view orf tha kids ar cumen out orf tha play erear.

Wot evar yew sa Red Van Man, thar be ar rite lort orf places warse tew live.

Tha ole dafs hev cum out, tha loke rite nice, sum orf tha trees ar in bud, tha ponds ar ful perhaps we hev hed tew much rain, tew or free weeks orf dri wefer arn we be moneing ar bot ar drote.

I tel yew wot I hev noticed, is tha numbar orf cars ar parked roun thar vilarge, arn tha masive increse in tha volume orf cars, arn trucs, ar cumin frew tha vilarge, not tew menshum them thar tractars.

I spec tharl orlas be mones arn grons ar bot thar Grene, but tha larst fings we wont is tha ole pub tew close, us ole boys wont hev en-ware tew goe. I dint nowe sa Red Van Man, thars more ar goen orn in OB tharn yew fink, ar lort orf pepal put ar rite lort orf efort in arangin finks thart take place every munf.

Me mate, he cum ovar frum Australiar, he hent bin hare for ovar tharie yars. He recorns orlow tha vilarge hev expandid, houses thart hev bin built loke good, arn fit in rite wel, arn he wus complementary ar bot tha shop, tha pubs, arn. Your rite ole man, thar be worse places tew live specialy if yew be retired.

Tha sad news ar bot Princess Kate, tha pore ole King be ar suferin tew. Tha bofe nede thar privacy arn ar bes wishas, not mediar frenzy!

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:

John Frost (Attleborough only) - 01953 860841

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 2	Police Commissioner Election, Village Hall, am to pm
Thursday 2	Parish Council, Methodist Chapel, 7.30pm
Friday 3	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Sunday 5	Open Day at the Windmill, 1pm to 4pm
Tuesday 7	Coffee and Chat, All Saints Church, 10.30am
Wednesday 8	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Thursday 9	Social Circle, Village Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 11	Church Bingo, Village Hall, 2pm
Monday 13	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Thursday 16	Is there anybody there?, OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Friday 17	Is there anybody there?, OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 18	Is there anybody there?, OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 20	Copy date for June newsletter
Thursday 23	Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 25	Parish Council 'Surgery', Village Hall, 10am to noon
Saturday 25	Alternative Quiz, Methodist Church, 6.30pm for 7pm
Friday 31	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School bookshop open Fridays and Saturdays 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 and the Old Buckenham Singers in the Methodist Church every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm.



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