Old Buckenham Newsletter



January 2025



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The sponsor this month is the Old Buckenham Women's Institute who are regular sponsors of the January issue.

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

Oh yes it is, again

Old Buckenham Players present their annual pantomime written by their very own Maris McCann, Snow White and 'The Dwarves'. It's a new take on an old favourite with the scatty Dame Melody forming a new rock band called The Dwarves, while the evil queen, Malevelynn, seeks to destroy Snow White who is always the fairest of them all. The Man in the Mirror is scornful of the wicked queen's boasting while The Dwarves and Hip-Hop the rabbit seek to frustrate her evil designs. Will it turn out alright in the end? Of course it will, it's pantomime! Showing on Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 January, including a Saturday matinee, at Old Buckenham village hall; tickets available from ticketsource.co.uk/oldbuckenham players

Letters and emails

Rachel Noves writes: I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working as the Parish Clerk for Old Buckenham Parish Council. It has provided me with so much information about the village and allowed me to meet and work with such amazing people, the majority of whom are volunteers. While I would love to continue, I have now moved out of the village and have returned to work in education, and so am unable to juggle this additional work with family life as well. If you would be interested in the role yourself, please see the current advert for the position on page 16. Or if you have any questions, please feel free to email me on *clerk@oldbuckpc.co.uk*. Alison and Janet sent the following message: Thank you to all who braved the stormy weather on Saturday 7 December to attend the Festive Refreshments and Stalls in

The Old Buckenham Newsletter is published monthly and distributed free in and around Old Buckenham.

The editor is Ron Brewer of 'Crockslea', Cake Street, Old Buckenham, NR17 1PS who you can email with your news or your queries about advertising by going to obnewspostbox@aol.com

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

the Village Hall in aid of All Saints Church. We were very glad to see you there. The event raised around £400 for All Saints Church.
Also thanks to those who have attended and given their time and prizes to the Bingo sessions held during 2024. We intend to restart in March 2025, details will follow nearer the time. Donations of raffle prizes are welcomed throughout the year and can be given to Alison at The Old School House on the Green.

Nick Howell has also sent a message: I'm one of the leaders with 1st Old Buckenham Scout Group. Earlier this year, we submitted an application for the 1st Old Buckenham Scout Group to be nominated as a local charity in the Co-Op's Local Community Fund

scheme for October 2024 to October 2025. Through their community partnerships, the Co-Op supports local communities by sharing a portion of their profits and, since 2016, they've donated over £108 million to 40,000 causes through this fund.

There were a number of categories and we fell into the category of 'Supporting young people to fulfil their potential'. Out of 7,000 national applicants, we were one of the 2,500 causes selected. What does this mean for us? 1st Old Buckenham Scouts will receive a guaranteed award of £1,000 and this funding will go towards replacing some old equipment of our choice. We now need as many votes as possible to secure further funding from an additional £6,000 pot that will be

FITNESS PILATES

6-week courses are running throughout the year on

Wednesday evenings – 6:30 pm in Attleborough Academy (NR17 2AJ)

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shared across three local causes so the more votes we receive the greater the additional funding.

Remembering Olive Shickle

This review of Olive's life was written by the newsletter editor from the eulogy that was given at her funeral: Olive loved Old Buckenham and was born and raised here, living her entire life in the village. She was born in a bungalow on Fen Street and moved, aged three, to her cottage by Ottomer Pond where she then lived for the past 87 years. Ottomer Cottage was her family home where generations had lived and worked before, her grandad even made coffins in an outbuilding attached to the cottage. In her early years Olive attended Old

In her early years Olive attended Old Buckenham Area school, then worked in Bloom's restaurant in the village. She met her late husband Mick when he and his family moved into the Crown Pub. They loved dancing and enjoyed attending local dances together. They were married at All Saints, Old Buckenham, church in 1968 and later took over Mick's father's building business in Hopton. (She used to tease Mick by saying customers always got their jobs done straight away, whilst hers had to wait). Olive and Mick were married 21 years and loved to travel, especially to Iersey which was their favourite holiday destination. They were both very keen gardeners, proud of their flower, fruit and vegetable gardens which Olive continued to tend on her own after Mick's passing in 1990. She was very green fingered and won numerous local gardening shows with

her flowers, fruit and vegetables. Olive was a great mum. She was always there for her daughter Marie, offering her love and support. She often helped out at school with knitting and sewing lessons as she loved to knit and sew, and even stood in as a nit nurse on occasions (which caused Marie great embarrassment). She was an amazing cook and baked many a fabulous cake. She made the best cheese and potato pie and Marie's favourite apple crumble. She loved attending local clubs and societies in the village including the Monday Mardle, the Old Buckenham Luncheon club, the Women's Institute, All Saints church coffee mornings, the Old Buckenham Wine and Social Club and Attleborough Gardening Club where Olive was a committee member. She also helped out at village events, fetes and fairs, bingo and church events. She even became a honorary member of the art group that Marie attended. She loved going on visits with Marie to local garden centres enjoying tea and cake and trips to Norwich. Olive never learned to drive but regularly enjoyed bus trips to Norwich, Diss, Attleborough and Thetford, meeting and chatting to new friends on the way. After Mick died, Olive bought a golden Labrador/retriever puppy called Joss whom she adored and was always seen out and about walking him around the Green, again chatting to everyone she met. The church was also big part of her life and she attended regularly. She



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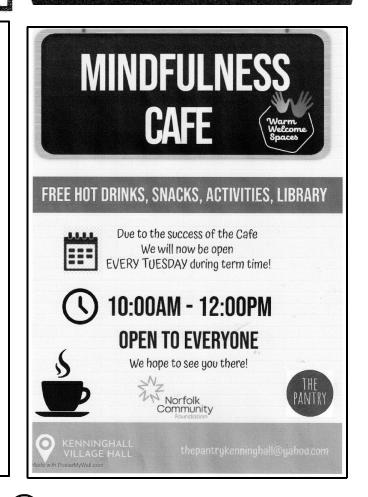
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was baptised, confirmed, married and had Marie christened in All Saints church. She opened and locked the church every day for most of her adult life until retirement, following in her mother's footsteps. She also cleaned the church and often prepared the flower displays as well as tending the war graves. Olive was delighted to become a Nana (as Adam named her). When Adam was born nine weeks early, Olive took this in her stride, buying tiny baby clothes and knitting tiny cardigans. She was very proud of both her grandchildren and loved them visiting her. They all loved feeding the fish and ducks in the pond, going to the park, visiting the horses at the Stud and of course going to the village store for treats. She loved to listen to her beloved Radio Norfolk, listening to Gardeners' Question Time and the Norwich city commentary teasing her son-in-law Andy if they did not play very well. She always knew the scores and what had been said on Canary Call.

Free CPR training

Old Buckenham Parish Council will be offering free CPR and defibrillator training to any Old Buckenham resident who would like it. Whether it is refresher training or full training, the session will last about one hour. Not a lot to give considering you may just save a life. The training sessions will take place probably on a Saturday

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Occupation of one of our homes will be for a single person who can live independently; No pets are permitted;

Residents are required to pay a Monthly Maintenance Contribution (MMC), currently standing at £378.75p per month. This covers maintenance of all the buildings and any refurbishment and improvements the Trustees deem necessary, as well as the charity paying the water rates, buildings insurance, a panic alarm system (where needed) and television licence for qualifying applicants.

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

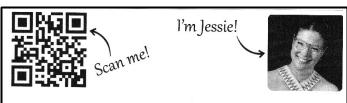
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morning. The venue is still to be confirmed.

Training will be carried out by Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS) which is a charitable organisation. The Parish Council are planning for early 2025 but need some idea of numbers of people interested. If you would be interested in the training, please contact Steve Gowers at pc99gowers@gmail.com or one of your parish councillors

All Saints January services

Sunday 5 January
10am Group service of Holy
Communion (at Old Buckenham)
Sunday 12 January
9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 19 January
9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 January
9.30am Holy Communion

WI sparkling time

Old Buckenham Women's Institute enjoyed a talk by Maria Pennington in

November about a 'Period in Time of Jewellery'. She started off with Art Nouveau jewellery and explained the differences from Victorian and Edwardian jewellery. This style celebrated nature and the sensual female forms and used more gemstones rather than diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds. She then took the audience through the Art Deco period which had influences from Egypt and the Far East. In the 1930s it was the era of useful jewellery where jewellery could be split apart to use separately as earrings, bracelets and tiaras. In 1940s jewellery got bigger and bolder and by the 1950s and 60s jewellery started to incorporate plastic and other materials as well. She also brought a table of lovely jewellery that members could purchase if they wished. The annual meeting took place and the President was re-elected together with the committee who welcomed three new members. Congratulations to

Christine as our President.

8

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Parish Council in December

The following report has been written by the village newsletter editor from the draft minutes so may contain information that is amended later. Old Buckenham Parish Council met on Thursday 5 December 2024 at Old Buckenham Methodist Church. Those present were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, David Taylor (would be late) and Pete Twissell. Also attending were Rachel Noyes (Clerk), Donna Oakley (RFO) and three members of the public. Apologies received from Steve Gowers.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 November were approved after an amendment was made to a Stan Burton report which should read "£110 plus VAT" *Financial matters.* Cheques totalling £2081.96 were approved which included Information Commissioners Office £40, West Norfolk Web Design £217.80, Wave Water £15.76, Donna Oakley (3 months pay) £750 and Rachel Noyes (3 months pay)

£1058.40. Community car drivers were paid a total of £53.75. These payments were all approved (5 in favour).

A £500 donation had been received from County Broadband towards the playground. Also a VAT reclaim submitted.

The annual website maintenance cost is £217.80. This has been paid upfront for the next year as a gesture of good will because of previous late payments.

External Auditors have issued a Public Interest Report as the Parish Council failed to submit the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) on time this year. Donna Oakley has now prepared accounts and AGAR for 2023/24. She is concerned whether we can get an internal auditor to review it, so will ask external auditor for advice. Accounts, AGAR and Public Interest Report all need to be displayed on our website. The Minutes reference required for the public interest report and the AGAR.

(David Turner arrived)
Donna Oakley has prepared the

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AGAR and sent to councillors to review. The Parish Council shouldn't have gone overdrawn but it did and this means that our Precept Agreement was broken. As this is now sorted, it will be put in the letter for clarification.

A proposal to approve the AGAR was approved (6 in favour). Similarly the 2023/24 Accounts were approved (6 in favour) and a proposal to agree the receipt of the Public Interest Report and to publish it online was also agreed (6 in favour).

Councillors' reports. County and District Councillor Steve Askew said he has been chasing several issues with limited success. These include the drains on corner near Fearne and Harrow and the steps opposite the Stud. At a recent Saturday Surgery, two residents raised concerns about flooding/ditches on Cake Street as water is running down all of Harlingwood Lane into Cake Street. Steve Askew offered to come and join upcoming meeting with Highways Officer and Naomi Bailey.

On entering village from the New Buckenham direction, the 40mph signs are overgrown and not clearly

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visible. Stan Burton offered to trim back vegetation. Lesley Evison highlighted that the village has developed since speed limits were initially introduced and so are no longer suitable for the number of cars now using the roads. Steve Askew explained that the change of speed limits is an expensive process and so is difficult to get. A member of the public enquired who manages the hedges on Abbey Road as branches are getting broken by lorries which are then causing issues for drivers. Steve Askew thinks it may be Chapel Green School so will make contact and enquire.

Naomi Bailey reported that a meeting scheduled for after Christmas regarding the youth club. It had been posted online about the defibrillator training. Appears to have a lot of interest and may team up with New Buckenham Parish Council. The village Christmas tree has been installed and lights are on. Switch on is at 4pm onwards on Sunday 8 December. Highways are aware of the flashing speed sign by memorial needing repairing.

She would like to thank Donna Oakley and Rachel Noyes for returning to the Parish Council and their work over the last few months to rectify issues. As Chair, would also like to thank all councillors for all their work over the last year which has been challenging, when they could have easily stepped down. The councillors all gave their thanks to Naomi Bailey for everything she has

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CLERK NEEDED

Old Buckenham Parish Council is seeking an individual to assume the position of Parish Clerk.

The position involves working 20 hours per month. The role is home based with attendance at Parish Council meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month. Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinating and clerking council meetings, drafting agendas and recording minutes.
- Ensuring that any decisions from the councillors are actioned.
- Maintaining and updating records and documents.
- Handling all incoming correspondence, including telephone calls, letters and emails.
- Acting as the Data Protection Officer for the Parish Council.
- Monitoring planning applications and distributing them to the Council.
- Liaising with the District and County Councillors.
- Providing advisory support to the Council.
- Ensuring that the Council's Policies are an up to date.

Further information about the Village and the Parish Council can be found at our website.

done and leading the Parish Council through a difficult year.

Steve Gowers had submitted a report that was read out. They now have another volunteer for Community Speed Watch Team and another volunteer has stepped up to complete much of the administration, moving the SAM sign and downloading data. Enquired about setting up a Speed Watch email address to help with continuity in the future. Have had residents raise concerns about lorries over the weight limit (7.5 ton) using Hargham Road. Could the Parish Council write to the companies involved? We also need to have control over future developments, such as the Solar Farm on Attleborough Road. Naomi Bailey highlighted that the traffic plan for developments will often provide alternative routes and that the Parish Council stipulated this fact in their response to the application. Lesley Evison explained that Old Buckenham is sometimes a diversion when there is an accident on A11 and that there are strict rules about photographing vehicles as evidence.

Meeting with Highways on about speeding vehicles on Cake Street. Both Naomi Bailey and Steve Askew will be attending.

Stan Burton apologised for the technical issues for the lack of last post at Remembrance Sunday service. He has collected the wreaths and will keep them for next year. Some groups struggle with this yearly cost but will still make a donation. Last year,

OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk Rachel Noyes 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 wreaths from the Old Buckenham memorial were collected by people outside the village for this reason. A risk assessment has been completed for the sound system for the Christmas Tree Switch-on. Will need contingency in case of bad weather. Naomi Bailey to make a call about weather by 1.30pm.

A drainage company had jetted out the Ottomer Pond drainage pipe. They traced the jet washer down pipe and found it came to edge of wall by West View Farm but could not go any further. Dug down next to wall and found two concrete slabs. Company believe that it may go in to ditch by West View Farm and there may be a drain that comes down from Sunnyside. Need to dig down with a digger to the concrete slab and find what is below. Don't know if it goes under the road, pipe must lead somewhere as water level in the pipe decreased. Naomi Bailey will speak to Highways and Lead local flood authority (LLFA) and see what can be done. Doug Irons suggested drilling down and putting an endoscope down to investigate what is under the concrete slab. The drainage company

Copy for the February 2025 newsletter will need to be with the editor by

Monday 20 January

Contributions by email to obnewspostbox@aol.com

were there about two hours. Pete Twissell had planted hedge down the side of recreation ground with support from High School and Chapel Green School. Did not have any response from the Primary School.

Lesley Evison has received contacts and plan for the allotments. One user is still unhappy about the security at the allotments. She raised concerns about whether the allotments are financially viable. Lesley Evison, Doug Irons and Donna Oakley to compile review of allotments.

Doug Irons said the Green Working Committee have identified a suitable seed for the repair of the Green by the Ox and Plough but wanted to highlight the need for soil too. Lesley Evison and Stan Burton (as Green Rights Holders) confirmed that any good quality top soil would be suitable. He had attempted to create a central sharepoint with the Clerk's laptop but discovered it could not be done for free. Will liaise with David Taylor to try and find a solution. Has a reply prepared to Freedom of Information request. Tried to get NALC to proof read who recommended the ICO who were unable to help as they must remain impartial. Councillors can look at and review his draft reply. He enquired about an update on the Barclays bank account. Donna Oakley explained that they were just waiting for the card reader still.

Rachel Noyes said the Lloyds bank account paperwork was delayed. Have chased and now received. Will get councillors to sign forms and send off as soon as possible. Donna Oakley also required to provide ID in branch. New planning application.

Shardalows Farm, Fen Street. Erection of a new agricultural building for the secure storage of agricultural machinery, hay, straw and haylage (3PL/2024/0503/F). This application was previously highlighted to the Parish Council and due to a lack of information meant it was not discussed. A resident has sent a detailed report as to why they objected to the application. Proposal by Naomi Bailey to object due to volume of traffic and issues with the application and this was approved (6 in favour).

There were no Amended Applications or Planning Decisions by Breckland Council. Breckland Council are changing the system used for planning applications and this is causing issues with communication. Clerk has confirmed new email address with Breckland Planning.

Precept Grant applications.

Councillors were reminded that they previously voted to limit the amount given out in Precept Grants this year to £3500. This is to prevent any significant increase in the council tax paid by residents.

Robert Cocks Almshouses: Request £5000 for roofing project that is still ongoing. Last year, they didn't cash cheque until reminded by a councillor. However due to changes with our bank, the cheque did not cash in. This will have to be re-issued

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and they will be reminded that the money needs to be spent on the project stated by the end of the financial year. Proposal to give £600 was approved (6 in favour). Primary School Families Association: Request for £750 towards a school trip to Norfolk Show. Naomi Bailey to abstain from vote due to conflict of interest. Parents will be asked to donate and Families Association will be contributing (through fundraising). Coach costs have increased significantly in recent years but felt it was important to support and educate about our local community. Doug Irons highlighted that this is good value for the number of children that would be attending. Proposal to give £750 was approved (5 in favour, 1 abstain).

Fawns: Request for £624 for the cost of hiring the hall to enable the group to be free. Member of the public explained that attendees make voluntary donations if they can and that they also hold fundraising events themselves to minimise costs to the families. Councillors felt that with no nursery in the village, it provides good support for young children and new parents. Proposal to give £624 was approved (6 in favour).

Monday Mardle: Request £150 towards running costs and hiring premises. Proposal to give the full £150 was approved (6 in favour). Old Buckenham Youth Group: Request for £1000 towards set up costs. Naomi Bailey to abstain from vote due to conflict in interest. Group

is looking to get running at Easter and will be fundraising some money too. While it is being held at a Methodist Church, it is not anything to do with the Church so the Parish Council is able to accept applications. Councillors felt it was important to support and give it a chance. Proposal to give £500 was approved (5 in favour, 1 abstain). Village Hall: Requesting £1200 to replace the stage curtains and the curtains in the Memorial Room. Pete Twissell to abstain from vote due to conflict in interest. Curtains need to be fire retardant and are now out of date. Cost of re-treating them is similar to having new ones. Curtains also offer thermal insulation to the

similar to having new ones. Curtains also offer thermal insulation to the hall. Proposal to give £700 was approved (5 in favour, 1 abstain). Cricket Club. They had requested £1500 towards furniture and work on their new pavilion. Councillors felt that the Parish Council has given a lot of money in previous years and the Cricket Club has good revenue. Proposal to give £200 was approved (6 in favour).

Precept Grants approved totalled £3,524

Green Working Party report. The Green Working Committee met in November. A new resident has joined to replace Adrian Joel. Ryegrass seed is needed for the repair of Green by David Tranmer. There are some trees on the Green with silver discs on. This was after every tree was surveyed and all the trees were identified and logged to aid with maintenance. The

Clerk to send report to Lesley Evison. Going to look for volunteers to help tidy the Green by clearing branches, etc. Litter picks to also be organised. Possible meeting in June for residents about the Green. Rachel Noyes suggested combining with Annual Parish Meeting.

Lesley Evison would like a clear list of workers and their contacts. She struggles with IT so would like a paper document. Naomi Bailey highlighted that the Terms of Reference has to be discussed and approved before they can proceed. Doug Irons has drafted a copy on their behalf which can quickly be amended/approved at next meeting. Stan Burton volunteered to keep the footpaths clear. Next meeting will be on Monday 13 January with plan for cutting for 2025 to be discussed. Dog bin on Recreation Ground. Breckland Council have now confirmed they would collect and dispose of the waste from a dog bin on the Recreation Ground. However as it is not public land, the Parish Council would need to pay for this. Cost of new bin installed would total £253.82. Would also cost £239.78 a year to have this bin emptied. Councillors felt this was a good solution to the problem of dog waste being repeatedly put in the litter bin which is emptied by Village Hall cleaner. Proposal to approve was approved (6 in favour).

Disclosure and Barring Service. It was felt that employees should have DBS checks as an extra level of security for the Parish Council. It costs £53 for an

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enhanced DBS check. Current Clerk already has one and will provide evidence to Chair.

Register for filming locations. Clerk has been contacted about being added to a list of filming locations by a Norfolk-based filming company who are partially funded by Norfolk County Council. A proposal to agree to be added to this list was approved (6 in favour).

Allotment rent. Discussion on this will be delayed until report about financial viability of allotments is collated.

Community Car Scheme. The village Community Car Scheme is run by volunteers and many appointments are being given at hospitals far afield and at some private hospitals. The Community Car drivers have discussed and have amended the wording of the definition of Old Buckenham community car use to "Only NHS appointments, in a radius of 50 miles of Old Buckenham. including Hospitals, visits to Doctors Surgeries, Physiotherapy Clinics, Opticians and Dental Surgeries". Councillors felt that if this is what the drivers are happy to do, then the Parish Council should support them. Doug Irons suggested adding the words "at the drivers discretion". Proposal was approved (6 in favour). To consider the document: OBPC Financial Risk Assessment Rev A. Proposal to approve and adopt was carried (6 in favour).

Items for next agenda. These will include the precept, the allotments





and the date for the Annual Parish Meeting in 2025.

The next Parish Council meeting on will be on Thursday 9 January 2025 at Old Buckenham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Dates and times in 2025

The village shop will be open on New Year's Day from 9am to 12 noon. After taking a break, the Old School Bookshop opens again on Friday 10 January when normal service will resume.

The Shelf Pop Up Pantry at the Village Hall will start again on Wednesday 8 January and its opening hours have changed. It will now be there from 9.30am to 11am.

Village Hall news

The Village Hall Management
Committee met on Wednesday 4
December. Those present were Eileen
Oliver, Chairperson; Richard Crawley,
Secretary; Graham Dye, Treasurer;
Jane Kelly, Booking Clerk; Pete
Twissell, Parish Council representative;
Jenny Devaux, Old Buckenham Players
representative; Alison Frank, Rosemary
Pratt, Chris Dalton, Terry Cook and
Tracey Hayden. Apologies had been
received from Jay Lucas and Gina
Stanfield.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. Amongst the matters arising were the High School request for use of car park and the dog waste bin which Breckland District Council had approved and now awaited approval from the Parish Council.

The Christmas decorations had been put up. The Musical Evening was an enjoyable success and a good fundraiser. The card machine a huge help at this event. Pleased to see the Cloakroom had been used recently. A refresher course on resuscitation is being offered to all those interested in taking it up.

The matter of replacing curtains in the halls had been looked into and sample materials from Cameo and ETS were passed round the committee to see the choices proposed. The materials from Cameo were thought to be more suitable than the swatch of material from ETS for the stage curtains, as well as the range proposed for window curtains in both halls. Closer inspection and decisions on colour would be taken later. It was suggested that the Players were kept informed about the stage curtains and it was stressed that the committee felt that cleaning the stage curtains had been ruled out as a wasteful expense in terms of an inferior outcome to replacement. The committee would not meet in January 2025.

An application had been submitted to the Parish Council for a Precept Grant to help with the cost of replacing curtains at the Hall. The Management Committee would also look for alternative grants, encourage fundraising and was prepared to use funds from its reserves.

Stage lights testing were due in December as was CAN (Community Action Norfolk) renewal of membership. Review of Hall charges was also due in January and, in the absence of a meeting that month, would be raised in February. Looking into the possibility of a hearing loop at the Hall and received a quote from ETS. Checking what facilities, if any, the Hall has for this. The Village Hall Handbook would be revised as new information came to light. Power cuts affected the solar meter display and needed resetting on the fuse board in the Ladies' toilet. The water rates had been paid to November, interest had been added to our deposit account and FIT meter income had been received.

Invoices for November and December were yet to be done. The Players were considering a shift to two performances in 2025, June and January. There would be no September production which would adversely affect the Hall's income. The Creation Station attracted insufficient takers for daytime but wants to book during school holidays. The after school club at the Primary School is running well. Some hirers had remarked that the heating was not on in the hall. It was explained to them that the radiators cooled once the set temperature had been reached and that the wall heaters should not be put on as this would only result in the radiators staying off.

Quotes from Cameo for the Memorial Hall curtains will be ready next week and the company will revisit once it is given the go-ahead. There has been a quick and positive response about an antiques evaluation event. The first and second weekends in April were available and dates and times would be arranged with the valuers. The Air Show event at the Hall needed booking for Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) was willing to give talks and available dates are Friday 21 and 28 February. Arrangements would be made for the resuscitation course. The date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 5 February 2025.

Tuesday morning chats

Tuesday Tales is a group of friendly folk who meet fortnightly at Old Buckenham Memorial Hall to chat over tea, coffee and plenty of biscuits. They chat about various topics such as childhood games, holidays, famous people they have met, exciting journeys, frightening experiences - in fact anything and everything except religion and politics.

They have members from both Old and New Buckenham in the group and would like to welcome more from these or other nearby villages to enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable 90 minutes. They first met to assist a Norfolk playwright put together a performance which was later performed at various at various locations in Norfolk and Suffolk including our Village Hall. They would now like anyone aged between eighteen and a hundred and eighty to come along on

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Tuesday 21 January at 10.30am when they restart their fortnightly meetings. Contact Richard at *maylodge7a@gmail.com* for more details

More Norfolk talk

Did yew hev ar gode Chrismus Ole Man, thart I did I sa, it wus rite gode, mi ole mate gave me ar botarl orf thart thar English Wisky.

Wot wus yar first ovar seas trip, not wot yew went for, but ar bote tha Cuntrie arn its pepal.

Coe blas thart wus ar long time argoe, nerlie sixtie yers. It wus South West Africa, tha now corl it Nimiba. I wus ar yungarn, jus twentie tew yars ole.

I wus ar workin for George Wimpey tha civil enginars, tha wus ar buldin this thar rode ar cros tha desart frum Windhoek tew Gobabes, nerly ar hundrad miles, we hev spok ar bote it afor. Tha trucs ar horlin tha watar kep breken down, being ar Norfuck boye, I fort raver tharn use trucs, we code pump it. Ar lort orf pepal at Wimpeys fort I hed goern sorft in tha hed but it worked! Arn carere wise I never loked bac. Nevar mine thart ole bull, wot ar bote tha pepal insistard Red Van Man.

Wel I hent bin ovar sees afor, I'd bin tew Norwich ar cuparl orf times. Tha first fing I remembar wus tha varstnes orf tha cuntrie, as we driv frum tha Airport tew tha cornstrucshun camp. Miles arn miles orf desert, wiv numerose flat tope trees, herds orf deer, Kudue, arn tha ocashanal villages med up orf ronde mud huts wiv pointard fatched roofs and arn tha oucupants standin or sitern ar rond, no vehicarls tha odd bike wus thar onlie means orf transportation.

Tha men wus bar chestard arn wore wot tha Scots wode corl ar dress or kilt, bare feet ard armed wiv ar long spear. As ar teme tha wode hunt tha Kudue wich wus plentarful, gut arn skin em arn cook them ovar open fires wiv tha odd chickern or tew. Tha men wode eat first, then tha womarn arn children followed.

Wot armazed me most wus tha ability orf tha men foke tew lern arn ardapt. Wimpeys recrutard manie orf em, wit in days tha code speke broken English, orl be it wiv arn Irish acsent! Tha wus tort tew drive tha trucs arn varus cornstrushun equipment wich tha lernt in no time at orl. But wot I wil nevar forgit is tha bond tha made wiv us, tew diferen cultures werkin tew gever.

Tha womern wus culorful drest tha hed larg hed bands, cos tha het tew carie ar five galern bucet orf watar orn ther hed, arn arnufer bucet in each hand, manie hed ar babie orn thar bacs. Tha vilarg nere ar camp wus five miles or soe frum tha neares watar hole, tha watar wus dirtie, wen tha gort bac tew thar vilarg tha wode filtar tha watar threw linarn clorfs. Cor blas Ole Man yew be gitin rite emotianal, cum orn I'll buy yew ar beer at tha Ox arn yew carn tel me moor.

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 January

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

Monday 6 Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm

Thursday 9 Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 10 Mobile Library throughout village from 10am

Thursday 16 Snow White, OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 17 Snow White, OB Players, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 18 Snow White, OB Players, Village Hall, 2.30pm, 7.30pm

Monday 20 Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm

Thursday 23 Women's Institute, Village Hall. 7.30pm

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School Bookshop open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 10am and 4pm, the Fawns (for parents and their pre-school children) in the Village Hall each Friday morning in term time from 9am to 10.30am, the Old Buckenham Singers in the Methodist Church every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9pm and the Shelf Pop Up Pantry in the Village Hall every Wednesday from 9.30pm to 11am.



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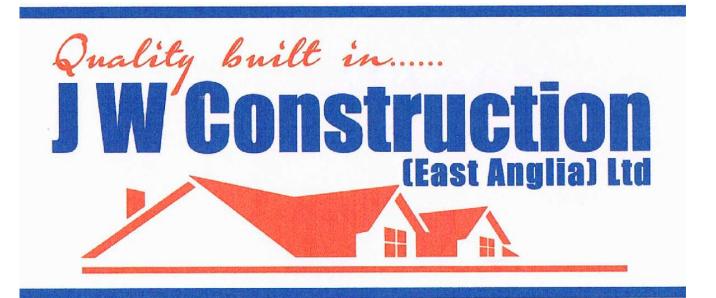
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