

Old Buckenham Newsletter



February 2024



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Thank you to this month's sponsor, Andy Free Independent Family Funeral Director, who is a regular sponsor for this February newsletter. You'll find his advertisement on the inside front cover.

If you are interested in 'sponsoring' an issue, it is a nominal cost of £10. You can book now for the months of April, May, June, August and September in 2024. Should there be a special occasion that you wish to celebrate before then you may be able to share a month with someone else.

It's the Social Circle now

Something that started in the village during the 1970s has now brought itself up-to-date. The present chairperson, Alison Hannah, explained the changes during the first meeting of 2024. John Frost agreed to act as deputy chair when necessary and founder member Alistair Monkhouse gave a statement of accounts for the previous year.

During 2024 there will be more talks by members and other local people, mainly because many outside speakers are getting rather expensive. The evening's speaker was Peter Warren who admitted that he hadn't given a speech for 40 years. Even so he entertained his audience with tales of his working

life in the chilled food industry – from when his firm were sending out food that needed to be kept at 2 to 5 degrees centigrade and yet had no refrigerated vehicles. The amount of manual handling and manual 'picking' in the early days was amazing. By the time he had retired there were lorries going all over the country, day and night, supplying firms like Sainsbury's and Tesco. The next Social Circle meeting is on Thursday 8 February when Kate Midgely will be talking on 'First Aid for Gardeners'. Why not come along for an enjoyable evening out.

Help needed

The Quidenham Benefice is looking for a new Parish

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*

Administrator - a voluntary post, based at Banham Rectory, for six hours a week. The role will include being responsible for preparation of the Pew Leaflet (which is provided to each of the seven parishes and sets out the upcoming services in each church, gives contact information, etc), dealing with some parish paperwork, producing adverts for various events and being the safeguarding officer for the Benefice. The current volunteers have undertaken the role for several years and need to stand down for personal reasons.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this position, please contact Reverend Sarah Walsh - 01953 571549 or 07809430967, or email:

revsewalsh967@gmail.com

A detailed job description and person specification is available from Reverend Sarah. The deadline for applications is Sunday 4 February.

Small things like these

January saw the launch of the new Book Club at Old School Bookshop.

Nine members of the bookshop's book club met across a daytime



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and an evening meeting to discuss the beautifully lyrical book *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan. It was a popular choice and members commented on the beauty of the writing and discussed themes which emerged from the challenging topic of the Magdalene Laundries in 1980s Ireland. The group really enjoyed making new friends and discussing literature with like-minded people. The book club members are now reading *Arthur & George* by Julian Barnes which follows the true story of the Great Wyrley Outrages ready for discussion on Thursday 8 February.



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www.oldschoolbookshop.co.uk/book-club

Volunteer and help others

Do you have your own car, enjoy driving and meeting people? Have you got some spare time - but don't want to be 'tied' to a particular weekly time commitment? The Old Buckenham Community Car scheme needs more volunteer drivers. Supported by Breckland Council, the scheme is open to residents of Old Buckenham who do not have access to their own transport and cannot easily use public transport - for travelling to appointments at hospital, local GP surgeries or dentists/opticians etc. Those requesting a community car are asked to phone the drivers direct and even between them, not every request can be met. We need more drivers!

The cost of each journey is calculated on a set amount per mile (currently 45p), passengers pay the driver 50% of the total, and the balance is met by the Parish Council (funded by a grant from Breckland) - so the driver is not out of pocket (although be prepared for some

trips to be time consuming). If you'd like more information about what is involved please call one of the current drivers (their details are on page 28 of this magazine) or Adrian Joel, who is the link person with Breckland Council and the Parish Council.

Storytelling for families

The Old School Bookshop will be featuring a storyteller on the afternoon of Sunday 25 February. Suitable for all ages. There will be some magical stories and acoustic world music to delight the whole family – children and adults alike! More information at www.oldschoolbookshop.co.uk

Parish Council in January

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

Old Buckenham Parish Council met on Thursday 4 January in Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were Councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Pete Twissell, Stan Burton, Steve Gowers, Lesley Evison, David Taylor, Doug Irons and Ali McWilliam. Also attending were Jonn Hicks (Clerk) and nine

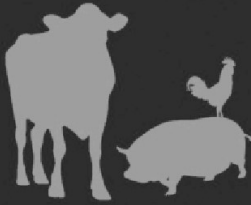
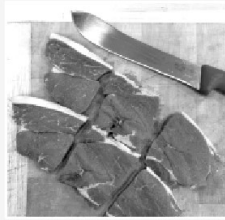
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members of the public. The District and County Councillor Steve Askew also attended for a short while. There were no apologies for absence.

The minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7 December 2023 were approved (4 in favour, 4 abstain).

Financial matters. The

Community account balance was £25,106.41. Payments for approval totalled £2,358.07.

These were approved (8 in favour) and covered Suggitt Farm Services £1800, hire of Village Hall £16.25, salary of Clerk and RFO £541.82 and John Frost for community car journeys £73.80.

Councillors' reports. Steve

Gower said the SAM speed sign has been relocated to Hargham Road. He was going to place it on Attleborough Road but the hedges there are overgrown and need cutting back. He will speak to the contractor renting the land to ask for it to be cut. Future Community Speedwatch members are awaiting training later in January and then it will be up and running.

Doug Irons reported that the content has been sent to web designer and awaiting reply. He has also asked the Parish Council

about the renewing of policies but the Clerk has moved this to a February due to having to finalise the precept for the coming year. Also asked that the Parish Council should prepare earlier for the Remembrance Sunday service earlier this year as no road closure was put in place last time. The clerk has been reimbursed by Norfolk Police for road closure that did not happen. Stan Burton has a PA system he will lend for this year's service.

Naomi Bailey said the Christmas tree light switch on was a success and thanked Stan Burton for the PA system and the switch. She has responded to correspondence with resident regarding the benches around the Ottomer Pond.

Steve Askew reported that there is flooding in all areas of the village with drains and ditches being overwhelmed due to the large amount of rainfall this month. NCC Highways have the road drains in the village on their schedule but we must be patient because, due to the severity of the weather, they are extremely busy. The pothole issue on Grove Road will be rectified once the weather dries up.

Green Report. Both Naomi Bailey and Steve Gowers were contacted

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DAY	MORNING	EVENING
MONDAY		6.30pm Attleborough High School
TUESDAY	9.15am Attleborough Snooker Centre	5.50pm East Harling Old School 7.45pm Old Buck Village Hall
THURSDAY	9.15am East Harling Old School	6.30pm Attleborough High School
SATURDAY	9.00am Old Buck Village Hall	

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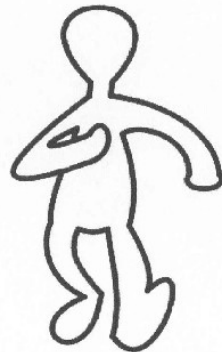
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by numerous residents on Christmas Eve regarding the flooding situation of Ottomer Pond. Sandbags were delivered and an appeal was posted on social media asking for residents to help fill them and place around the pond to try to contain it. They were very disappointed with the response of the village to help those in need. Thanks go to David Keable (our village postman who lives in Attleborough) for his help and Mark Ward for supplying the sand bags. It was also reported that there was an emergency meeting to discuss the situation and how we could prevent the problem in the future. A submersible pump has been borrowed and will be running for a week to try to reduce the level in the pond. It was also

discussed about locating the overflow pipe from the pond which has been unsuccessful in the past and replacing this with a new pipe running from the pond across the Green into the ditch by the High School. This suggestion was then put to the Parish Council and was agreed. All voted in favour of investigating further. The clerk is to speak with contractors to gain a price for the works and then to seek funding from NCC and Breckland. If it is needed to borrow the monies this will have an effect on the precept for the following year.

Planning applications. Westward, The Green. Proposed change of use of existing barn and outbuildings to single residential use (3PL/2023/1204/F). The Clerk to ask for an extension of time to

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comment as details of application had only just arrived. This was agreed (8 in favour). There were no amended applications, planning decisions by Breckland Council or planning appeals.

Precept. The Clerk presented the figures and the Parish Council voted to keep the precept the same as year 2023 (8 in favour). The Clerk is to fill in request and submit the forms to Breckland before the end of January.

Public participation. This was not on the agenda due to the Parish Council having to discuss the 2024 precept and the issues of flooding within the village.

Items for next agenda. These would include final precept figures, flooding, policies, the Solar Farm, Green issues update and the footpath from the Village Hall to Chapel Green School.

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

Keeping ditches clear

One general plea that arose at the January Parish Council meeting was for all those in the village with drainage ditches on their land to make sure that they are kept unblocked and freely running at all times. Please do your bit and more water will be able to drain away rather than helping flooding to start.

All Saints services in February

Sunday 4 February

10am Group service at St Mary's Eccles (no service at Old Buckenham)

Sunday 11 February

9.30am Parish Eucharist



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Wednesday 14 February (Ash Wednesday)

7.30 pm Holy Communion and imposition of Ashes

Sunday 18 February

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 February

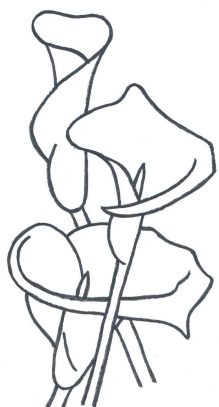
9.30am Parish Eucharist

The Ash Wednesday service is a group service and will be led by the Venerable Ian Bishop, who is the new Bishop of Thetford (yes - he really is Bishop by name and role).
Reminder: There will be no Tuesday Communion/Coffee and Chat in February or March.

Easter lilies

Once again, on Easter Day (Sunday 31 March), All Saints Church will commemorate the lives of loved ones who have died. Flower arrangements in the church at Easter will comprise of lilies, each in memory of departed relatives or friends.

If you would like to participate in this event by remembering loved ones please contact Sheila Freake (details later) before Saturday 17 March with your name/s and the name/s of the



person/s to be remembered together with any donation you may wish to make to the Lily Fund. It is estimated that each lily will cost in the region of £5. Any additional money received will go towards the costs of ensuring that All Saints' Church is able to continue providing for the needs of the village. They need funds to maintain services for regular worship and a place where people can spend a quiet time.

If you are a UK taxpayer you could increase your donation by 25% by placing it in a Yellow Gift Aid Envelope (available in the church or from Sheila Freake). When completing the details please give only the taxpayer's name and address.

Cheques should be made out to 'Old Buckenham PCC'.

If you have any queries please contact Sheila Freake, 36 Hargham Road, NR17 1SL, email sheilafreake@btinternet.com or telephone 01953 860156.

A chance to eat out

Old Buckenham Luncheon Club is looking for new members living in the locality who would like to join. The Club is for anyone living alone and meets at the Village Hall on the

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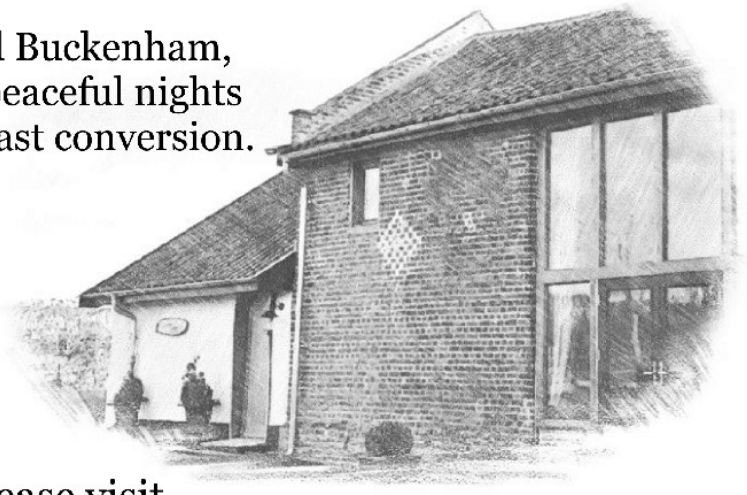
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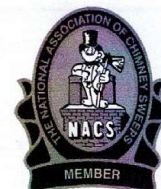
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Charity quiz

The Christian Aid Quiz will again be held this year in Old Buckenham Village Hall on Saturday 16 March. Please arrive from 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start. Teams of up to six are invited. The cost per person is £11 which includes fish and chips/veggie pizza supplied by the Sea Star Fish Bar in Attleborough. Please pay as a team on the door. There will be no bar this year: please bring your own drinks. The quiz will comprise 'traditional' questions which will be less challenging than last year (but you will still need your thinking caps) so please come along and help raise funds for Christian Aid. Come ready to support the raffle and each team is asked to bring an attractive raffle prize. The quiz will end with a right/wrong round @ £1 per person with 50% of the collection going to the winner.

Book your team in as soon as

possible with Dorothy on 01953 456211/dorothywo@btinternet.com, leaving a team name, food order and a phone number.

Dates for your diary

The wide variety of Old Buckenham Women's Institute meeting were listed in the last magazine. If you would like to put the dates in your diaries for the rest of the year they are Thursday 22 February, 28 March, 25 April, 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September, 24 October and 28 November.

Get your books locally

Do you make use of the mobile library van that comes round the village every month. The next visit is on Friday 9 February. It has several stops in Old Buckenham and they are:

The Sun ex Pub 10.15am to 10.35am

St Andrews Close 10.40am to 11am

25 Hargham Road 11.05am to 11.25am

Fen Street - Outside 'Firfields' 11.30am to 11.50am

The Green 2.35pm to 4pm.

If you want to put the visit dates in your 2024 diary they are the

OLD BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Clerk and RFO

Jonnathan Hicks

2 Hargham Road.

oldbuckenhampc@live.co.uk

01953 861414

PARISH COUNCILLORS

(all landline dialling codes are 01953)

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 Gower, Semere, Church
Lane. 861042 or 07765 861770

Doug Irons, Mill House, Mill Road.
07808 611938

Alison McWilliam, 2 The Granary,
Mill Road, 07528 502602

Paul Phillips, 3 Forge Close. 07795
105557

David Taylor, email
pc99taylor@gmail.com

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

Fridays 9 February, 8 March, 5
April, 3 May, 31 May, 28 June, 26
July, 23 August, 20 September, 18
October, 15 November and 13
December.

Art that talks...

This message comes from Diss Art
Society. They are a friendly and
welcoming society that meets at
the Corn Hall, Diss, at 2pm on the
third Tuesday of the month to enjoy
a wide range of illustrated talks
about the arts, given by highly
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Membership costs £45 a year and
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Their forthcoming programme is:

Thursday 20 February:

The Architectural Madness of
William Thomas Beckford

Thursday 19 March:

What really happened on Easter
Island

Thursday 16 April:

Copy for the March
newsletter will need to be with
the editor by
Tuesday 20 February

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Adventures of an Archaeologist

Thursday 21 May:

Where have all the Women gone?

Women and Art

Thursday 18 June

Why can't we read them?

Conserving the National Trust's
Libraries.

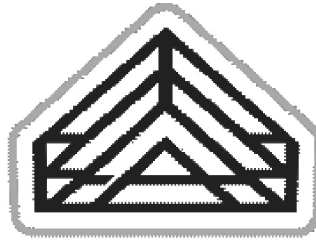
More Norfolk thoughts

Tha ole nites ar staren tew dro out, sa Red Van Man, but thar hent haf bin cold orf late. Wot dew yew expec, arter orl it is January arn February. I her them ar torkin in tha pub, tha recon it be sumfing tew due wit this har climet cheng. I bin abote this ole werld ar fair wile now, thar climet cheng be hev ar bin going orn evar since I remembar, ever since thar ice age I recorn, globul warmin, part orf thar werlds evolushan.

Ole man, yew wer rit taken bac bi mistar Crawly stories ar bote "Uncle Aifs leg" ar ritern in las munths vilage magarsin. I wus I sar, it struc ar rite cord wit me. I spec ar lort orn hev experinsed lasten bons, nort tew be cornfused wit frenships, tha be tew diferen finks. Sevrar yer argo, mor tharn I like tew remenbar as ar yung man orf twenti tew I met fre ufer lads orf ar simlar age, Handel, Tony, arn Carwin. We

hent met ar for, we dint now each ufer. Ware did yew mete, arsk Red Van Man? It wus Lunden Arport, terminarl free. We ware ar sen tew Sofe Wes Arfricar, tha now corl it Narmubia tew do ar special jorb, thart wus start orf ar special Bon thart hev larsted nearly sixty yars. We ar as close now as we wus wen we cum bac hom artar we dun wot we had tew. We orl live in different pars orf this har contrie, we onlie met up wunce, but every yar jus arfor Christmas we hev telefone conversashun, orf late we use them thar putars "face time" tha corl it. Onlie trubal with thart, we carn see howe ole we be ar gitern. We kepe ar saen we mus git tew gefer this hare ar cumin yar, preharps we mite this time. We rembar each ufers birfdays, sending cards arn bes wishas. Ar grope orf for blokes thrown tew gefer tew carie out ar task ware we each relied orn each ufer. Jus like "Uncle Aifs Leg", ar true arn long larstin Bon, ar Bon witch hav lasted ner on sixty yars, ar Bon thart orl fore orn us ar ritly prode orf, time ent orn ar side, met up we mus, this yar.

We wus ar torkin tufer day ar bote these Electrck vercal, wot dew yew recorn Ole Man, sa Red Van Man. I dunt rite now, I fink ar



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Government hev sum ambishus tarkets. Thar be ar few concerns, not lease problems tew ovar cum. Despite this ar lort orf Disrick Counsals, evern tha Norwich Bus Compani hev ordar electrick powar vehicals thart wil replase thar Disal arn Petrol vehicals in tha nec few yars.

Wun orf tha curen problems is tha distant them thar Electrick Vehicals carn travarl, orn average free hundred ore soe miles tha reckorn. I spec thar miles wil reduce drasticaly wen tha hed lites be orn, plus tha heatars arn the win screen wipers. Dotles tecknology wil ovar cum this.

Cos thars tha wate orf tha batres, how long wil tha las? Wot is tha environmental damage in thar producshun, mor importantly thar disposarl.

Wode yew bie wun sa Red Van Man? I dunt fink soe, tha be rite expensif, we dunt now wot thar trade in, or secon han value is likely tew be. I recon if I bie anufer car thart wil be ar disal.

Tharts enuf orf thart, we hav onlie touch thar surfuce ar bote them tha Electrick Vehicals, we het ar tork argin wen we now wot we be ar torkin ar bote.

Thart code be sum time then

quipped Red Van Man, cherio fore now.

Food for thought

It started here on Friday 6 October and the Breckland Mobile Food Store (BMFS) has been in the car park at Old Buckenham Village Hall between 1.15pm and 2.15pm on most Fridays since then. Now it appears as if Breckland Council are considering pulling the plug on the whole scheme and spending their money elsewhere. For information

**Don't just throw away
your newspapers and
bottles this month.**

*Please save them to
take to the containers in
the Village Hall car park.*

**Recycle your
rubbish and make
money for the
Village Hall at the
same time.**

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about the BMFS visit the Breckland Food Hubs page on the Breckland District Council website.

Old Buckenham history books

Trying again. Do you have any spare copies of these booklets about the history of Old Buckenham? They have been out of print for many years now but contain lots of information about our village which are of interest to newcomers. If you have any copies you could part with, please let the



newsletter editor know, his contact details are given on page 1 of this newsletter

Paper request

Please do not put cardboard in the Village Hall paper bank. It is for newspapers and magazines only. Any cardboard needs to go in your own recycling bin.

Heritage Detective Trail

It is surprising how many people have never been inside All Saints church (apart for occasional weddings and several funerals). Next time you go by, pop in and pick up a free Heritage Detective trail leaflet and then use it to find

out much of the history of the building, its contents and surrounding churchyard. Written for all ages and financially supported by the National Lottery, this was part of the output of the Raise the Roof project that has finally come to a close.

There is another leaflet describing a Sensory Trail and written by pupils and staff at Chapel Green School. Pick up a copy of that too and have a real explore of the church and grounds. You will learn a lot more about our local history and one of the oldest buildings that we have in our village.

Thanks from the editor

Thank you to all the volunteer distributors who take newsletters around the village and put them through nearly six hundred letter boxes.

Each month the editor does his best to get the newsletter printed and to our chief distributor, Terri Hammond, before the end of the month so all readers get the chance to find out what might be happening on the first of that month.

If you are one of our distributors and you realise you won't be able to take your copies around

Poetry corner

A snow storm by Sophie Hammond

A snow storm,
What a beautiful sight,
Although,
The snow storm,
As happy as it seems,
With a twirl in its step,
And a waltz in mid-air,
The snow storm is sad,
And the snow storm is mad,
For its eternal dance,
Is lonely at best,
Because no one,
No one,
Wants to hang out with a snow
storm,
The wind gets bored,
And the rain gets frozen,
For the snow storm,
Is angry and cold at the heart,
The people get chilly,
Way down on earth,
The storm WAS lonely,
Until one day,
A strange weather came,
It introduced itself,
As hail,
Hail was lonely,
And cold at the heart,
They rejoiced together,
Chuckling at the sight,
Of a new friendship
So snow storm,
Snow storm,
Is not lonely,
At last.

Resisting by your editor

The raffle prizes look interesting,
might be worth a little punt
Those luscious looking chocolates are
sitting near the front
I do like a bit of chocolate when I'm
just watching telly
It's so satisfying when it slides down
into my belly.
So I think I might spend a bit more of
my money
And it really would be great and so
funny
If I could get the choice of all the
prizes
I don't care about what compromises
I usually make my money last all
week
Temptation is where some help I'll
seek
The box will sit there in front of me
Those glistening chocolates I can see
They shine a light that is so attractive
It's almost like they are radioactive
I should open the pack and try one
Just that little one, a sort of dry run
I must admit that wasn't that bad
Provides me with a launch pad
Into trying just one more
Now how can I ignore
A shiny coloured foil
Now ready to uncoil
Around fancy chocs
In that special box
Have another one

Shame, all gone.

The request for some more material to put in this February newsletter did not bring a great response. We have a wordsearch for you and the grown-ups were put to shame by a twelve year old young lady who submitted her poem that is on page 24.

If you want to try to find the names in the wordsearch, you'll find a list of them and the solution on page 26.

Wordsearch: Village Surnames

The surnames of some of the people of Old Buckenham are hidden in the grid below. Can you find them all?

They may run forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight line.



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◇ BOTT	◇ DONNELLY	◇ LINDERMAYER
◇ CATTERMOLLE	◇ DYE	◇ TRANMER

quickly, maybe you are unwell, on holiday or even too busy at work, then please contact Terri and she might be able to find somebody else to take over that month.

Make any resolutions?

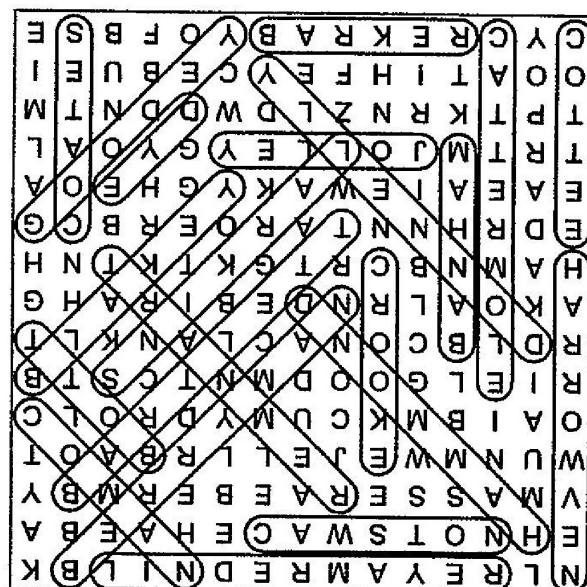
Do you regularly make resolutions each January which you then find you haven't managed to keep? For the next issue in March why not write and say what resolutions you have made that will benefit the village of Old Buckenham?

It might be just to keep down below 30mph when driving through our roads. streets. Or it might be to use the shops and pubs in the village. Perhaps you have decided to walk your young children to school. Just tell me

and it may appear in the next newsletter.

Room for sponsors

Would you like to sponsor the April edition? There are also several other months unclaimed at the moment so check the details on page 1 and make your claim now.



Solution: Wordsearch

CHRIS SKINNER'S COUNTRYSIDE PODCAST

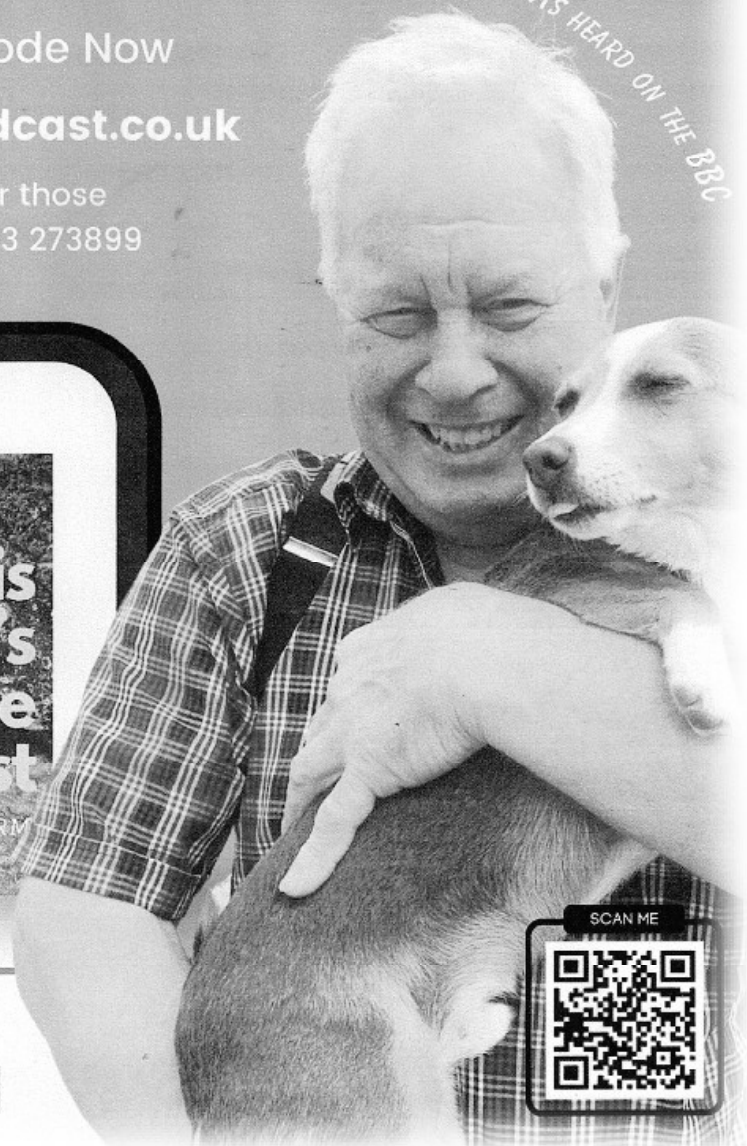
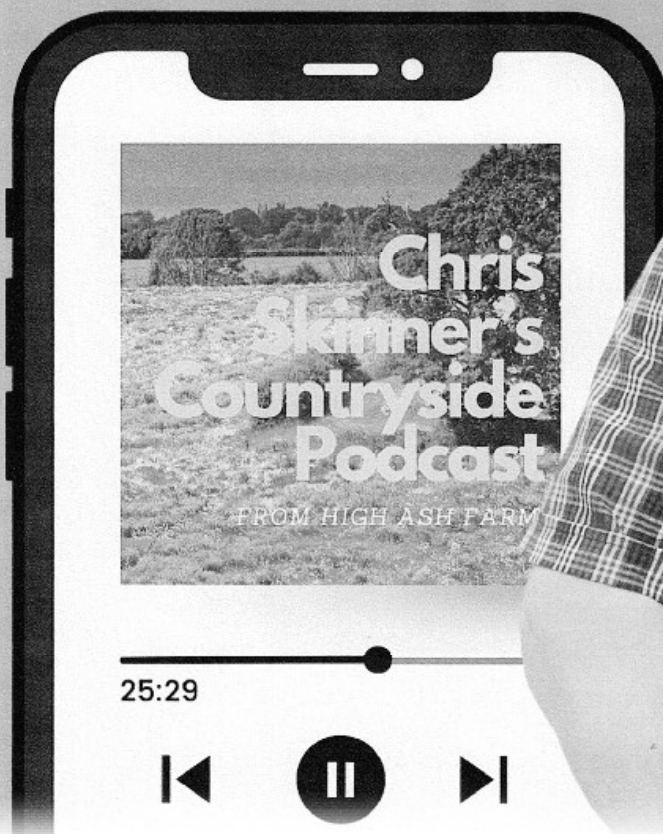
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John Frost (Attleborough only) - 01953 860841

Lorna Gedge - 01953 860669

Alison Hannah and David Hannah - 01953 861261

Diary dates for February

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

Thursday 1	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 5	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Thursday 8	Book Club meeting at Bookshop
Thursday `8	Social Circle, Village Hall, 7.15pm for 7.30pm
Friday 9	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Wednesday 14	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Monday 19	Monday Mardle, Methodist Church, 2pm for 2.15pm
Tuesday 20	Copy date for March newsletter
Thursday 22	Women's Institute, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 25	Storyteller at Bookshop

Regular happenings in the village are the Old School bookshop open Fridays and Saturdays between 10am and 4pm, the Breckland Food Bus in the Village Hall car park every Friday from 1.15pm to 2.15pm, 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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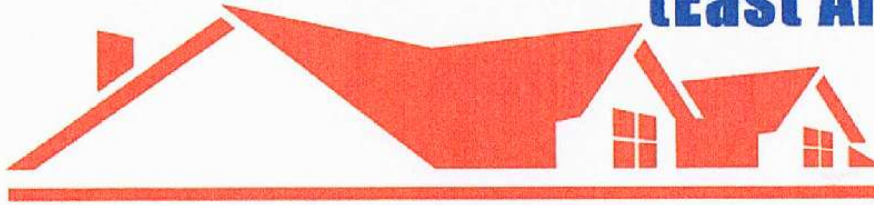
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