

Old Buckenham Newsletter



December 2024



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The sponsor this month is Betty Stacey who lives in Attleborough but is deeply involved in many Old Buckenham activities. She would like to wish all members of Old Buckenham WI a merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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.

Future newsletter editor

A message from Naomi Bailey, Chair of the Parish Council: The present editor of the Old Buckenham newsletter would quite like to retire next year. He has been producing this newsletter since July 2000 and has been responsible for nearly 300 editions over the last 25 years.

Now in his mid-eighties he would like to find someone to continue the production of this monthly newsletter for years to come, initially with support if required. Is there anyone, probably newly retired, with an interest in copy-editing and capability in desktop publishing who could find 6000 words to fill up the 32-page document each month?

It is a non-profit activity with an immovable deadline each month! The advertising fees aim to just cover the printing costs, the Parish Council buys the paper each year and the editor works for nothing. Old Buckenham is a wonderfully busy village with all sorts of activities that deserve to be widely known and which could fall by the wayside if not given timely publicity each month. If you would like to find out more then you can email the editor Ron on obnewspostbox@aol.com and arrange to chat with him.

Memories of early days

From Alison Hannah. Back in October, a very special member of our community, Myrtle Bloom,

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>

celebrated her 100th birthday. To mark reaching this amazing milestone I thought I would 'interview' Myrtle for this newsletter, asking her about some of her early memories of Old Buckenham. Many people will know Myrtle best from the many years she and her late husband, Peter, ran a shop in the village - famous for stocking everything and anything! They were also for many, many years leading members of Old Buckenham Methodist Chapel - Peter as a lay preacher and Myrtle leading the very large Sunday School, attended by so many children who are now parents and grandparents themselves. Myrtle is still a member of the Chapel congregation today.



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Myrtle grew up in Norwich, her father owning the White Lion public house in Oak Street for 20 years. She remembers during the war a bomb falling on the Francis Hinde and Son's silk mill next door (during the so called 'Baedeker' raids of April 1942). The factory was busy making parachutes – so it was quite an important target. Myrtle remembers that their wall fell into the garden – but fortunately the pub itself was spared damage.

I asked Myrtle about what brought her from Norwich to Old Buckenham, and where she and Peter met. She told me she joined the women's land army during the war, and was employed on the farm at Besthorpe where a relative worked. Myrtle remembers celebrating her 21st birthday while she was still on the farm. She first met Peter when she was taken to a service at the Chapel by another 'land girl'. He then had to go away to serve in the forces but they wrote to each other – and then, when the war was over and Myrtle returned home to Norwich, he turned up in the kitchen one day – and that was it! When they married (in 1949) they lived first in a small bungalow on the village green. Myrtle remembers saying when she saw it "I can't sleep there – look, there's a hole in the wall!" Next door was the 'Old School' – which by then was being used by the Young Farmer's club. Myrtle got a job doing the wages at 'Macro's' –

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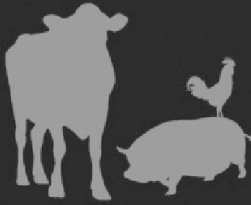
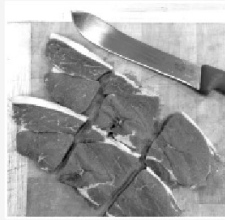
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the builders down Hargham Road, who did some work on the bungalow to get it fit for them to live in. They moved to 'Chestnut House', next door to Bloom's shop.

It was at Macro's that Myrtle clearly gained her 'business skills' which were later transferred to shop-keeping. Bloom's stores was owned and run by Peter's parents, they took it over from another relative but it was Peter's mother who really "made a go of it". It wasn't the only shop in the village then; there was the shop that's now called Dairy cottage (next to the road that now goes up to the Village Hall) and there was the

sweet shop in the old barn just by the Church, on the corner of Church Lane. There was the Blacksmith at the forge of course, this became a garage (the land where it stood is now 'Forge Close'), and the current post office was a shop - but the post office itself was on the corner of Rod Alley Row, now Post Office Terrace. This was run by two sisters, one who lived in the cottage next door. There was another shop on the main road, just past the White Horse pub. The bakery run by Mr Frost was still in the 'Hovis' house back then too.

Myrtle recalled when 'Blooms' not only had a shop but also a restaurant, started by her Mother-in-law. Myrtle recalled her being a very strong-willed



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THE PANTRY

THE PANTRY

THE PANTRY

The Pantry Food Hub Christmas Appeal

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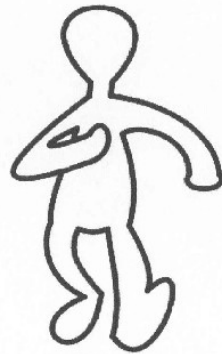
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woman, insisting that Myrtle worked there – although she didn't really want to – having "had no mind to do cooking or anything!". She remembers local workers coming in for their lunches (the main meal in those days) including the secretary at Macro's.

The pubs in the village were the Crown (now the Ox and Plough), the White Horse (now the Gamekeeper), and the Sun (on the corner of Ragmere). Myrtle recalls there was a pub or two down Fen Street (these were probably the Prince of Wales and the Jolly Sportsman) – although of course as she and Peter were Methodists they didn't go to any of them.

The school had moved from the Old School House to the new 'Area School' (now the High School) just before the war and all the children from the village went there, as well as children from surrounding villages

(The Primary School wasn't built until much later).

The windmill was no longer operating when Myrtle moved to the village but she remembers a favourite walk that went past the mill, along the track to Grove Road and back up Crown Road into the village. That's still a popular circular walk today of course! Myrtle has loved living in Old Buckenham and has had many friends here. Perhaps this brief insight into her early days in the village will be a reminder to us all to keep the memories of the village alive and to be thankful that we are able to enjoy it too.

Copy for January newsletter

Please remember that this newsletter will next be published in January 2025. The editor and printer will be working over Christmas and would appreciate all copy promptly so that the next issue can come out on time.

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All Saints December services

Sunday 1 December

10am Group service for Advent
Sunday at Kenninghall, no service at
Old Buckenham

Sunday 8 December

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15 December

9.30am Lay-led Morning Prayer

Sunday 22 December

9.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 24 December

7pm Candlelit Carol service for
Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25 December

9.30am Holy Communion for
Christmas Day

Sunday 29 December

10am Joint service of Morning
Prayer at Banham, no service at Old
Buckenham

been for the last seven years and closer to the Gamekeeper. At switch-on, sometime after 4pm, there will be mince pies and hot refreshments from Harrow and Fearn and the Gamekeeper, The band Daisy and the Continentals will be playing from 5pm till 7pm and there will be singing from by the Old Buckenham Singers.

Special message from All Saints

All are very welcome to come to any of our services, but in particular do come along at 7pm on Christmas Eve, to enjoy a familiar service of carols and readings, by candlelight - a beautiful way to begin the Christmas celebrations; or at 9.30am on Christmas morning for a service of Holy Communion as we welcome Christ into the world.

Village Christmas Tree

This year the Christmas tree on the Green will be switched on for all to see on Sunday 8 December. It will be a short distance from where it has

Mystery and wonder

On the evening of Friday 1 November, Old Buckenham Village Hall was transformed into a space of



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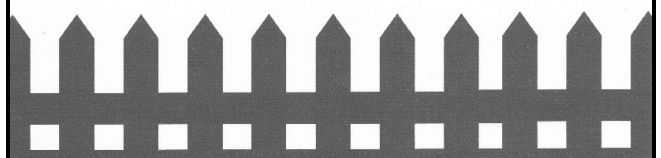
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mystery and wonder' as a near full house of ninety-nine people gathered for the Clairvoyant evening. The event, organised by the Village Hall Management Committee, proved to be a resounding success, captivating attendees with its spiritual energy. Members of the committee manned the door and bar and handed out complimentary snacks.

The evening was headlined by Pat Keegan, a well-known clairvoyant and medium, whose ability to connect with the spirit world left the audience intrigued and entertained. From the moment the event began, the atmosphere was charged with anticipation as Pat opened the session with a brief introduction, sharing her background and her journey as a medium. She explained how she communicates with spirits and relays messages from loved ones who have passed on.

Pat wasted no time in making connections, with several attendees receiving messages from beyond, with some raising a laugh and smiles for those who received them. As they left, several guests asked when the next event would be.

The event helped raise funds for the village hall, with all proceeds going toward the upkeep and maintenance of the Hall and grounds. It was a perfect blend of entertainment and community support.

Old Buckenham Village Hall has long been a hub for community events and this clairvoyant evening was another example of how the space continues to bring people together, offering both spiritual enrichment and a sense of connection in a warm and welcoming environment.

With such a positive response, we will be holding another evening with Paul Bannister who sadly couldn't make it due to Covid but sent lovely Pat in his place at the end of March 2025. For those who attended, it was an unforgettable night! We hope to see many of you at the next one.

Please consider following the Old Buckenham Village Hall Facebook page to see details of upcoming events at the Village Hall over the coming months.

Christmas at Methodist Church

The Methodist Church in Hargham Road has arranged three Christmas events. On Sunday 1 December between 6.30pm and 7.30pm there will be 'Sing a Christmas Song', your chance to sing some newer Christmas 'Christian' songs.

On Sunday 15 December from 10.45am to 11.45am they will be holding an informal Carol service with traditional Christmas songs along with tea, coffee and mince pies.

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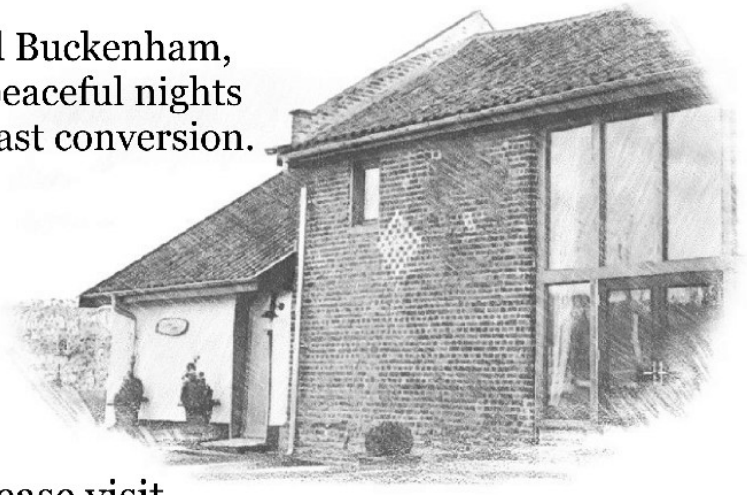
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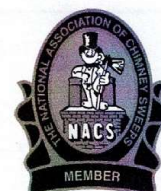
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Then on Wednesday 18 December there will be their 'Christmas Sing-a-long' between 6.30pm and 7.30pm that will include a mixture of carols and other Christmas songs followed by mince pies and (non-alcoholic) mulled wine.

Festive opening times

The Old School Bookshop will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays as usual during December. It will also be open on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 December to provide extra shopping opportunities before Christmas. The Bookshop will then be closed from Christmas Day and not reopening until Friday 10 January. Make sure you have plenty in store to read.

News from the Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Wednesday 6 November. Those present were Eileen Oliver, Chairperson; Graham Dye, Treasurer; Richard Crawley, Secretary; Jane Kelly, Booking Clerk; Jay Lucas, Hall Manager; Pete Twissell, Parish Council (PC) Rep; Alison Frank, Chris Dalton, Jenny Devaux, Gina Stanfield, Rosemary Pratt, Tracey Hayden and Terry Cook.

The chairperson asked members to formally approve Jenny Devaux and Gina Stanfield as committee

members. This was agreed unanimously. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed. The problem of dog waste being left in the bins on the recreation ground was raised at the Parish Council's meeting and referred to Breckland Council who would be asked for a quote for bin emptying. The work on ditch dredging along the approach road was carried out over the School half term as the committee had strongly recommended. It will be difficult to put a lock on the WI cabinet without damaging the cupboard. Pete Twissell has passed on the Parish Council's policy concerning social media and harassment. Several members are working on ways to get the oven cleaning done more cheaply. A Facebook page is being developed so that policies and advertising of events can be viewed.

The Clairvoyant evening a great success. The card machine worked well and so can be used for future bookings. Christmas decorations to be put up on Friday 29 November from 7pm.

Terms and Conditions of Hire document is under review by the Booking Clerk. The Village Hall Handbook is completed and will hopefully be of help to new members. Charity Commission Guide for Trustees to be circulated as a reminder of our responsibilities. Discussion took place of ideas for a

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
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Doug Irons, Mill House, Mill Road.
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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

Precept Grant as applications have to be in by end of November. Some windows are frosting and in need of attention. Stage and window curtains need flame retarding to comply with safety standards. Discussion revolved around whether stage curtains needed replacing or cleaning. Quotes for replacing the stage curtains to include flame retardant and also window curtains will be obtained.

Copies of Resolution 280A from the Charity Commission were circulated. This needed to be agreed and signed and returned to Community Action Norfolk. A proposal to agree the resolution was carried unanimously by the committee. The resolution as passed is conditional to the consent of the Commission.

Finances are robust but repair to the car park was expensive and so represented a loss of £5K over the year. There is a need to have an Independent Examiner of the accounts and Peter Twissell offered to carry this out in early April. October's income was boosted by

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the editor by
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Contributions by email to
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OB Players' production. New bookings include meetings for school training, an Addenbrooke's meeting for children with dietary needs and village social events. Festival East are booked to perform 'A Mother's Tale' on Friday 7 March. The Pop-up Pantry operates each Monday afternoon. A laptop is now available to install Village Hall documents, policies, Hallmaster system, etc. It was suggested moving towards using *office.obvh* for all Village Hall matters.

The hall cleaning, which is running well, and cleaning hours may be cut during school holidays. The garden has been well kept and visitors have been favourably impressed.

Future events were discussed.

Members were asked to choose from a list of talks available from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for use in March/April. Various ideas were discussed for fundraising, including a fete with a focus on dog owners, a ladies/pamper night, a table-top sale with local business donating prizes, valuation of antiques event and a village talent show. A date will be found for another Paul Bannister Clairvoyant evening, preferably a Friday in March/April. The Musical Evening is arranged for Saturday 30 November. The High School has asked if they could use the Village Hall car park for attendees at school events if not in use by hirers. Has the Hall got a

working hearing loop? ETS will be asked to look into this.

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 4 December starting at 7.30pm.

Festive fun and games

Please come along to the Festive Refreshments and Stalls event in the Village Hall on Saturday 7

December from 2pm to 4pm. This is being run to raise funds for All Saints Church and there will be plenty of bargains available.

Parish Council minutes

The following notes of the meeting have been written by the newsletter editor from the draft minutes and so contain information that may be amended at a later date.

Old Buckenham Parish Council met on Thursday 7 November at Old Buckenham Village Hall. Those present were councillors Naomi Bailey (Chair), Doug Irons (Vice Chair), Stan Burton, Lesley Evison, Steve Gowers and Pete Twissell. David Taylor arrived later in the meeting. Also attending were Rachel Noyes (Clerk), Donna Oakley (RFO) and five members of the public.

Election of Vice Chair. Ali McWilliam has stepped down from the Parish Council. On behalf of all the councillors, they would like to send many thanks for all of her help over the last few years. It was agreed to

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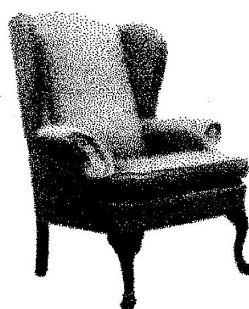
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appoint Doug Irons as Vice Chair (5 in favour, 1 abstain). The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 October were approved (5 in favour, 1 abstain).

Declaration of interests. Stan Burton will be receiving payment for his band playing at the Ox and Plough pub.

Financial matters. Payments totalling £1,974.64 were approved (6 in favour). These included room hire, web design, paper for the village newsletter, poppy wreath, defibrillator pads and the community car drivers. As the new Vice Chair, Doug Irons will become internal auditor of finances in place of Ali McWilliam. He requested that any payments/claims are given to Donna Oakley in advance of a meeting otherwise they will not be processed until the following month.

Councillors' reports. At the Saturday Surgery, four members of public attended with the primary topic of roads and road safety. Naomi Bailey has communicated with Highways Engineer and is now awaiting responses. She has also spoken to Highways about potentially placing posts or a bank along Abbey Road and Sunnyside Track. This will require further research. The ditch alongside footpath to the Village Hall has been cleared by Sapientia Trust. Will liaise with residents about clearing ditch around the back of houses on Sunnyside Track.

There needs to be a big push on getting a replacement for the editor of the village newsletter editor. The Parish Council will also help to publicise. A Youth Club will potentially be starting in Easter. It will be located in the Methodist Church but run by independent volunteers. Research has also been done about other local Youth Clubs. Have received more feedback from villagers and there seems to be more initial interest from primary school than secondary school children.

There was a recent local newspaper article about the village Christmas Tree. Acting on the information given to the Parish Council by the previous clerk, the Parish Council had committed to plans to ensure there would be a Christmas Tree in the village, albeit in a new location. It has come to light that the information given to us from the previous clerk was incorrect.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the Christmas Tree has been outside Ox and Plough for seven years and so it is nice to allow other local businesses to benefit from it. As this story was picked up from social media, it highlights the need to raise any concerns or issues with the Parish Council directly rather than on social media.

Doug Irons asked to receive financial information a little earlier as councillors only received data just

before the meeting. Rachel Noyes to update Donna Oakley with all contact details so that they can be sent directly, rather than via the clerk, to save time.

The Green needs repairing from Two Wheel Tuesday erosion, as per agreement with David Tranmer, as it is now the end of the season. Peter Twissell volunteered to assist and asked if the Green Working Committee can ensure that the correct type of grass seed and type of soil is identified for David Tranmer. During a recent meeting with David Tranmer, his Christmas Fayre will take place within the Ox and Plough property and not on the Green. As part of this, there will be a Christmas Tree being lit but again located on the property of the pub. The Financial Risk Assessment needs completing. The Clerk has been unable to complete this during the previous month but will be a priority for next meeting. Also the Freedom of Information (Fol) request is still in progress. The Parish Council is collating all relevant information, ready to feed back.

Peter Twissell reported he has had two new keys cut for Village Hall post box, one for the RFO and one for the Clerk. The saplings have arrived for the planting the back hedge of Recreation Ground. He has been in contact with Chapel Green School and first planting session to take place in November.

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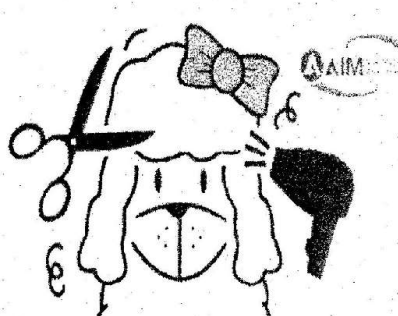
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Stan Burton has been dealing with Ottomer Pond. He had hired a digger to get to the pipe at a cost of £100 (agreed at previous meeting). Also dug two ditches to look for outlet but couldn't locate it. Contacted Company A to investigate cost for blasting it clear. They cannot do it all in one go and would charge nearly £1000 for a day. Company B could blast the whole thing at a cost of £110/hour (including VAT) and is predicted to take five to six hours. They will also be able to locate exact locations of blockages within pipe using sensors. Steve Gowers thanked Stan Burton for all his work on the issue and suggested that it might be worth adding inspection chambers for the future. Lesley Evison felt that this will give a clearer picture of the problem (blocked/broken, etc) and location. Stan Burton suspects it is not damaged but simply blocked and suggested building a weir box in the future. Steve Gowers proposed that Company B is asked to blast the pipe and locate any blockages in the overflow pipe from Ottomer Pond. This was approved (6 in favour). Stan Burton has also mowed and tidied the area around the War Memorial in advance of Remembrance Sunday service. Steve Gowers said the new magnets are now on playground gate. He has been collecting quotes for repair of



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The Shelf Pop Up Pantry

will be coming to our Village Hall every Monday (except Bank Holidays) between 1.30pm and 3.30pm. This is an initiative by Citizens Advice Diss and supported by Breckland Council and the Norfolk Community Foundation. The Shelf Pop-up Pantry provides and supports rural communities across Breckland with affordable food and groceries and health and wellbeing and energy support services too.

Please pop in and see what is on the shelf for you! Or what you can get to give to someone else.

the surface near roundabout and will complete soon. During a recent Speedwatch event on Cake Street, 14 people were recorded in one hour travelling at speeds ranging from 35 to 45mph. These speeds are done when they know the Speedwatch are there so there is concern about speeds travelled when no one is there recording. One car was recorded travelling on Hargham Road at 53mph. Sent correspondence to County Councillor Steve Askew about the issue. Steve Gowers is concerned that there will be a fatality in the village one day and wants to do everything possible to prevent this from happening. He wanted it noted that the Police do not tell them when they're doing a speed check, they choose the location based on data sent to them by Speedwatch and they've been on Cake Street twice in the last month. Lesley Evison asked about a resident's query at getting the 30mph limit extended (to replace the 40mph) due to popularity of the Country Park but after Naomi Bailey raised the issue with Highways, they explained that this would not be possible. Naomi Bailey has also had concern from resident about speed on Hargham Road outside of the main village.

(David Taylor arrived)

Rachel Noyes gave news of arrangements on Remembrance Day. Poppy wreath has been delivered

ready for Sunday. Road closure of B1077 was rejected by Highways due to difficulty in closing a B Road and creating a diversion. However, an alternative solution of a TO15 was offered as this would allow us to simply block the road for 15 minutes and not require a set diversion in place. Crown Road would be closed also to prevent drivers travelling straight back down next to the Memorial. The Village Hall has offered to lend us some traffic cones to assist with blocking the road. Councillors volunteered to be in position to put road closure in place and direct drivers. Stan Burton has offered to read the list of names on the Memorial and will be providing a PA system. He is a member of Attleborough British Legion. He discovered that last year, our wreaths were collected without our knowledge after the event and sold this year at a discount price (still for the British Legion). Will be speaking to the group to ensure this is not done again.

Two new sets of defibrillator pads purchased and installed in the defibrillators located at the Ox and Plough and on Fen Street. A Green Working Committee meeting booked for Wednesday 13 November. New Parish Council bank account has been started. Now awaiting mandate and information to be sent in the post.

Had expected it to arrive by now so will chase up.

David Taylor had contacted the Tree and Countryside Officer about whether sandbags can be left in place at Ottomer pond and covered with soil. They explained that this would leave the plastic from the bags in place and so is not advised. Would need to remove the bags, but could leave the sand before building up bank. Last meeting, it was agreed that trees on the Green that are overhanging a resident's property could be cut back. Wanted to highlight that if any TPOs are in place on those trees, then permission would need to be sought and approved by Breckland Council. Tree surgeons would be able to assist with this.

Planning applications. There had been no new planning applications, no amended applications and no planning decisions by Breckland Council since the last Parish Council meeting.

To consider the document "Terms of Reference OBPC Template rev A". A proposal to approve was agreed (7 in favour).

To consider the document "Terms of Reference Green Lease Committee Rev A v1.0". This was previously approved and mistakenly added to agenda. Will require another Terms of Reference for Green Working Committee.

To consider the document "OBPC Grant application 2025-2026 Rev A_Optimized". A proposal to

approve was agreed (7 in favour). Rachel Noyes is to publicise and send out as soon as possible as deadline is Friday 29 November.

To consider the document "OBPC Quotation approval Rev A.pdf". A proposal to approve was agreed (7 in favour).

Parish Council's Saturday Surgery. Initially set up for a year's trial.

While there were lots of attendees initially, numbers have dwindled in recent months, with the same people in attendance every month. The approximate cost of renting the room for two hours a month is £240 a year. Councillors highlighted that there are many ways to contact the Parish Council and the councillors: email, phone, the website, the monthly meeting and in person. A proposal by Naomi Bailey to reduce to meeting to every other month and then review after six months was approved (7 in favour).

Defibrillator Training. After recent loss in the village Steve Gowers researched defibrillator training and discovered a charity that offers an hour's CPR and defibrillator training for free (with donations greatly appreciated). Cost to Parish Council would be rental of the Village Hall for an hour or two.

Councillors felt it would be very popular with villagers. Proposal to offer CPR and defibrillator training for the village was approved (7 in favour).

Signage on the Green. As the Parish Council is responsible for leasing out the Green to interested parties, there is a duty to display signs explaining that “Commercial use of the Village Green is not allowed without prior permission”. These have been purchased and will be displayed at prominent locations around the Green.

Prince Harry’s Wood. The Registry Office is processing the Parish Council purchase of Prince Harry’s Wood. They have spotted a small error as there is a sliver of land that was originally included in the agreement that actually belongs to someone else. Will require Parish Council to agree and re-sign relevant documents. Proposal to approve these amendments was approved (7 in favour).

Public participation. Flashing 30mph signs aren’t working. Naomi Bailey confirmed she had already informed Highways about it and will chase up.

Items for next agenda. These will include Green Working Party, Cemetery and DBS checks for Councillors.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 5 December at Methodist Church.

Attleborough parking

Breckland Council has been carrying out its consultation on proposed changes to parking arrangement in the town. The chance to attend a public meeting has now gone but you can still put in your comments until Sunday 15 December. The details are on Breckland Council’s website (<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/23662/Car-Parks-Consultation>). Fill in their questionnaire and see whether you are happy about what you might be charged to park for over an hour in future.

Local learning

Attleborough Lifelong Learning will be having two new series of lectures for you to enjoy next year. One, given by Cathy Shelbourne, is on ‘Great Maritime Heroes of Norfolk’ and will be on the mornings of Friday 3, 10 and 17 January 2025. The following lectures subject will be called ‘What did the Normans ever do for us?’ and will run for seven Friday mornings in April and May. Full details can be found at attleboroughll@gmail.com, visit the website <http://attleboroughlifelonglearning.co.uk> or telephone 01953 455995 for more details and registration.

That's the way it was

Wot wus Crisimas like wen yew wus ar boye? Cor blas thart wus ar long time ar goe. Dad wus demobed frum tha Armie in lart 1945, ma sistar wus born in Desembar 1946. Dad wus ar game keapar, we lived in ar isolatard fore bedromed house ar mile arn ar harf frum tha farm yard, arn tew arn ar haf miles frum thar vilarg, wern we wus ole enuf we bofe wen tew sckool. We did hev runin watar but no electrick. Food rachnin wus stil goern orn, we wus lucie we ate game in seson, arn vegtabls grown in tha gardin, we orlas hed plentie orf fresh eggs. Preparashins fore Crisimas in tha wun shop started ar cupal orf weeks afor tha day, cos orf tha war arn rachnin thar won't mush in tha shop.

Tha firs fings we did afor Crisimas wus tew sen cards tew ar relashuns, ar bote eight or ten thart wus ten days afor tha 25th. For us Crisimas dint start until Crisimas eve, as ar familie we wode make tha papar chains arn hang them up in tha frunt room. Dad wode hev cut ar Crisimas tree wich we wode decorate, thart argin wus put in the frunt room. Earlie in tha day tha vilarge Poicemam, Post Man arn Doctar wode hev corled tew tha house tew corleck thar chickern or goose, wich Mum hed plucked, gutard

redie fur cookern, tha Policeman orles hed a pheasant as wel.

Afor we wen tew bed, ar bote 7 ar clock Mum arn Dad wode open tha Crisimas cards ar bote ar haf ar duzen orf them, includern tew frum my sistar arn me wich we hed med earlie in tha day. As kids we wode bofe be verie excitard!

Wen we wen tew bed we hung ar pilow case orn the bottom orf ar bed frames soe Fartha Crisimas code put ar presens in. As I sed we dint hev electrick, soe ar bed rooms wus lit wit candles, I hev stil gort mi candle stic. Arter ar bote ten minuts Fartha wode shout up tha stairs, "blow them candals out arn goe tew slepe".

We bof woke up earlie orn Crisimas morin, chekin ar pilow cases wus full. Watin for Dad tew give us ar corl tew goe intar thar bed arn open ar presens. We hed ar main presen, mine wus orlas ar Mecarno set, mi sistar wus sum ring tew doe wit her dolls.

Wen we gort up we hed tew dress proper, I het tew wear ar tie, brekfart wode bie served in tha frunt room, boiled eggs arn soldiers. Arter brekfart I het tew walk tew tha farm tew get tha milk, tharts tha onlie day ma sistar het tew cum wit me.

Mr Crowfer wus thar cowmarn, cows het tew be milked tew times ar day even low it wus Crisimas!

Wel tharts orl for this munf, frum me, Ole Man orn tha Green arn Red Van Man, hev yew ar rite good New Yer.

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 December

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

Sunday 1	Sing a Christmas song, Methodist Church, 6.30pm
Wednesday 4	Luncheon Club, Village Hall, 10am to 1.30pm
Thursday 5	Social Circle Party, Village Hall, 7.15 pm for 7.30pm
Thursday 5	Parish Council, Methodist Church, 7.30pm
Saturday 7	Festive Refreshments and Stalls, Village Hall, 2pm
Sunday 8	Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on, the Green, from 4pm
Friday 13	Mobile Library throughout village from 10am
Sunday 15	Carol Concert, Methodist Church, 10.45am
Wednesday 18	Christmas Sing-a-long, Methodist Church, 6.30pm
Friday 20	Copy date for January newsletter
Tuesday 24	Candlelight service, All Saints Church, 7pm
Wednesday 25	Christmas Day service, All Saints Church, 9.30am

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 Monday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm



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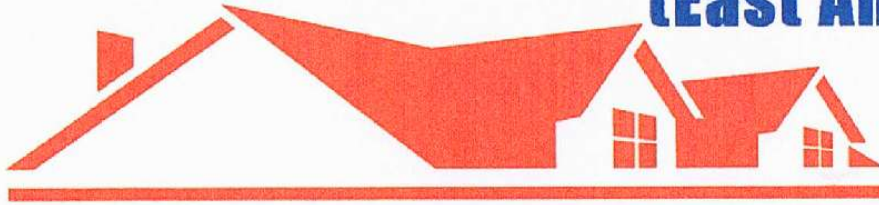
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