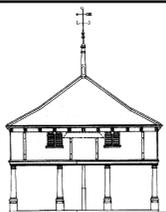


# New Buckenham Parish News



February 2021





# New Buckenham Parish News

February 2021

## New Buckenham Parish Council

### Councillor Vacancy

Would you like to get more involved in your community and local issues? We currently have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining us or would like a chat about what is involved, please get in touch. The vacancy is caused by the departure of Paul Martin, who has moved to work in warmer climes. We would like to thank Paul for his work on the Parish Council over the past few years and wish him well with his next venture.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk: Trevor Wenman, 3 Tavern Lane, Diss, IP22 4HT / 01379 641423 / 07963 197402 / [parishclerk@newbuckenham.net](mailto:parishclerk@newbuckenham.net) or the Chair: Cllr Karen Hoblely / 01953 860529 / [karenhoblely@hotmail.com](mailto:karenhoblely@hotmail.com)

## Thank You

We are very grateful to all our sponsors who have helped to cover our production costs during 2020. If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *Parish News* in 2021, please get in touch (see back cover).

Finally, we would also like to thank our delivery team who make sure you receive your copy of *Parish News* each month.

*Parish News Committee*

## December In St Martin's

We were just wondering whether to stick two sprigs of holly in St Martin's, when a group from VandV volunteered to put up decorations in the church early in December. Three cheers for them! Theirs looked lovely and the church is so very grateful, both for the decorations and to the decorators. They went up just in time for the Carol Service, too.

It was all very nerve-wracking – could we, couldn't we, and anyway *what* could we do – but St Martin's did have all the December services, including the Carol Service, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and a Group service on the 27th for the parishes in the benefice (and two ordinary Sundays too). They were attended with all precautions, inevitably sparsely, but what a joy to be able to gather even if we could not sing! Sadly, we are back in our boxes, but let us hope that things have improved before Easter...

*Helen Pearson*

## Thanks again!

We put a note of thanks in the November *Parish News* after Ian's stroke, which turned out to be premature! Since then he's had a heart attack and a few more A&E scares, and mum has moved into De Lucy Care Home in Diss. Once again, we are so grateful for all the help and care we've received, with lifts, food, medicine collection, speedy car repairs, looking after our chalet on the Broads, doing mum's garden, dropping things off for her, messages, phone calls, treats, help at church and lots of cheery greeting on our walks. We are so pleased now to have our son David caretaking mum's bungalow – and us! But he works long hours from home, so we are still very appreciative of the help of kind friends. Thank you.

*Ian and Susan Jowett*



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# Violet Highton

My Mother, Violet, died on Thursday 14th January. Her funeral will take place at St Martin's church on Thursday 4th February at 1:30pm. Due to the current restrictions, we're unable to invite any villagers to the funeral service inside the church, but we'd of course be delighted to see anyone who might want to brave the elements, either in the churchyard or in Church Street!

Violet was born on the 23rd January 1924 at 7 Palace Gate, in London. She was the youngest of her family by a long way – her father was born in 1868, and died in 1931, when she was seven years old. She grew up in Suffolk, at Farnham Hall, near Saxmundham, and was still at school when the war started. She later enlisted in the W.R.N.S. and saw service in the north of Scotland.

After the war, she married my father; he worked for Shell, and their first years of married life were spent in Angola. They returned to the U.K. to take up farming and settled at Old Hall Farm in Fornsett St Mary. Mum was a District Councillor on the old Depwade Rural District Council and a long-standing school governor at both Fornsett and Spooner Row.

In later life, she worked for the C.A.B. in Norwich and eventually became a Debt Counsellor. She continued in this role until well into her eighties.

She lived independently at her home in Rosemary Lane until New Year's Eve. We're all desperately sad that she has left us; I find it hard to remember that I can no longer walk down to see her.

Many thanks to all who have sent us their sympathy and kind wishes.

*Steve Highton*

When Violet came to live in New Buckenham, she brought a wealth of experience in voluntary public service in local government and Citizens' Advice counselling. She attended every possible Parish Council meeting, her contributions being brief and perceptive. At village events, she always had a task, whether doing a raffle at exhibitions or serving her own soup for the fireworks display. Initially a driver for the Community Car Scheme, she took over its running for nearly 10 years. She saw it through procedural and financial changes, keeping up with the required information technology until her deteriorating eyesight prevented it.

Violet was a leading member of the New Buckenham Society and was of inestimable help in running its events, not least the catering for the Hair of the Dog walks. She was meticulous in keeping the directory of names and addresses for *The Villager* up to date, seeking details often on the day people arrived!

Well-attuned to public feelings within the village, she memorably instructed the Society to hold a public debate about a planning issue four years ago, not so much to take sides, but to allow people to have their views heard. She became an invaluable member of the Neighbourhood Plan team, giving freely of her experience and wisdom.

Latterly, her *Parish News* article about the need to plant more trees was enthusiastically taken up by friends, and the village can be proud of what's been done so far. More than that, we all enjoyed her wonderful company! She was an excellent hostess in her lovely garden and an adorable guest in return.

*Charles Oxley*

We would also like to offer our condolences to Violet's family and friends. Violet was a frequent contributor to *Parish News*, and to village life in general, and she will be sorely missed by us all.

*Parish News Committee*

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## Biz Buzz – What’s Goin’ On???



In lockdowns, thank heavens for local businesses. The ‘Shop Local’ vouchers idea continues at Kings Stores (01953 860264) meaning you get money off future purchases. During February, there is no Post Office service on Wednesday mornings, but Banham and Old Buck POs are open.

The King’s Head is re-starting the ‘fab’ Friday takeaways from 29th JANUARY. Pre-orders only – 01953 861247.

County Broadband has reached their sign-up target (one third of the village) needed to progress the hyper-fast broadband – Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). This doesn’t necessarily mean it will happen – they’ll now do detailed planning and costing. If all goes smoothly, they estimate 18 months, but there are no guarantees. Contact: Matthew Buckman (01376 562002 ex 150 / matthew.buckman@countybroadband.co.uk)

All this is nothing to do with a better mobile signal locally! The latest on the Downmore Farm/O2 mast site is that there ‘progress on legal issues’, but ‘still some time from being able to schedule build works’.

All Biz Buzz updates can be found at [www.np4nb.online](http://www.np4nb.online), the New Buckenham Facebook page, the Old Buck Business Facebook page and Nextdoor.

*Janet Trewin*

## Welcome to New Buckenham

We extend a warm welcome to Kevin, Lisa and Archie who have moved into Rose Cottage, Chapel Street. We hope you enjoy your time in the village,

*Parish News Committee*

# Accommodation Available

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The Trustees of the William Barber Charity have one almshouse which has just become available.

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Closing date for applications: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021



## St Martin's Church – February 2021

Sadly, there are no services planned in February, due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, but the church remains open.

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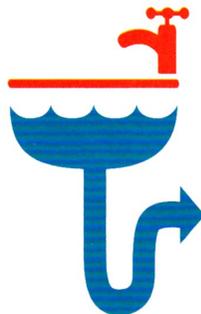
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## Showing Photos

It's almost certain that there won't be a Photoshow this year, originally planned for the end of May. It would have been the ninth such event. Run by New Buckenham Arts, these biennial events are a showcase for local photographers and bring visitors and income to the Village Hall. It's a pity, but we can't arrange it unless we know that everyone would be safe.

On a brighter note, we were delighted by the photographs taken during the lockdown months of 2020. They can all be seen online at either Facebook or YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1028605280573836>

<https://youtu.be/hR5xrqv-a8Y>

We hope you like them, and thank you to all those who submitted photographs.

*Charles Oxley*

*New Buckenham Arts*

## Walnut Tree

Do any of the enthusiasts who are planting trees round about have any use for a walnut tree – still movable but growing? The squirrels plant them, and I moved one some time ago, a second one later, and then I could not find it, but now I have, safe and sound, and I do not want a third so this is its last chance! They are elegant, fast-growing trees and the wildlife enjoys the nuts. I should like to as well, but they are more on the ball than I am! There is already one by the castle gate that appeared in a pot from a garden centre!

*Helen Pearson*

*860251*

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# New Buckenham Parish Council

The Parish Council was saddened to hear of the death of Violet Highton, who passed away in January. Violet has been a staunch supporter of the Parish Council over many years, particularly through her work running the Community Car Scheme for 11 years and latterly working on the Neighbourhood Plan. She was a stalwart at Parish Council meetings, even in the dark days of winter when no-one else would venture out! She also mastered Zoom and logged into our more recent meetings! The village will be poorer without her and she will be greatly missed. We send our sincere condolences to all her family. On a personal note, I would like to say that her gin and tonics were legendary, but maybe not on a school night!

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th February and will take place via Zoom. In order to join us, you will need to download Zoom on to your laptop, tablet or phone. Details of how to join us for the meeting will be posted a few days beforehand on the Parish Council website and on our noticeboard on the Village Green. All parishioners are welcome to sign in. In the meantime, contact details for the Parish Council can be found on the back cover. Please contact me or any other councillor if you need further information about the meeting or any other Parish Council matters.

All meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. These be held on 9th March; 13th April; 11th May; 8th June; 13th July; 14th September; 12th October; 9th November and 14th December. The Council does not meet in August.

*Karen Hobleby – Parish Council Chair*

*01953 860529 / karenhobleby@hotmail.com*

## Summary of Draft Minutes January 2021

1. Minutes of the December meeting approved, noting an error in the November Minutes that had misidentified the contractor for adult gym equipment. November Minutes to be amended to name Sunshine Gym as the chosen contractor.
  
2. Matters Arising  
Snowdrops on the Market Place: Thanks to generous donations there are enough for this site. Chair invited suggestions for additional planting sites.
  
3. Casual Vacancy  
It was noted a poll had not been requested to fill the current Councillor vacancy. Resolved to advertise the vacancy with a view to consider potential candidates at the March meeting.
  
4. Public Participation
  - a) Affordable Housing: Mr Charles Stimpson referred to proposals he had put forward to donate land for housing to a Community Land Trust. To be discussed at the next meeting.
  - b) Christopher Pearson has identified issues with the large yew tree in the churchyard. The Clerk will discuss with Broadland Tree Services.
  - c) There is an overgrown hedge near the bus stop.
  - d) Overflowing drain issues again in Castle Hill Road and outside the Almshouses.
  - e) Problems with the footpaths following on from Marsh Lane onto the water meadows.
  - f) Report from the SNAP meeting.

- g) An offer had been received from a group of volunteers to ‘tidy up’ the older part of the cemetery. Issues with grave owners made this impractical.

## 5. Planning

### a) New Application

The Cottage, King Street: Replacement of four sash windows to front elevation and modern casement windows to the rear elevation – No objection.

### b) Planning decision

Somerville, Booseys Walk: Single-storey front extension, single-storey side extension and loft conversion – Approved.

## 6. Financial Matters

a) Financial Report for December was noted.

b) Payments for January were approved.

c) The Council considered the report setting out the draft budget and the Council Tax precept.

Resolved to approve:

i) allocation of reserves.

ii) draft budget 2021/22, amounting to expenditure of £20,175, less income of £850, giving a precept requirement of £19,325.

iii) 2.9% increase in precept.

## 7. Community Car Scheme.

In the light of the current situation Council agreed that the suspension should continue and be reviewed in March.

*Continued on page 19...*



8. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Manning reported that further input was awaited from Breckland on the draft plan and a full report will be available next meeting.

9. Amenities

- a) Allotments – the rubbish on allotment 12 will be cleared when the land is dry enough.

*Mary Dowson, on behalf of the Parish Council*

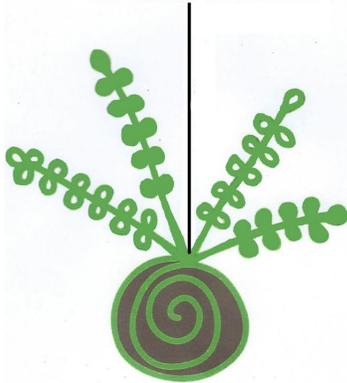
## 200 Club Lucky Winners

Thank you for your continued support of the Village Hall. Here are the lucky winners for the latest draw. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please call Paul Madden (860850).

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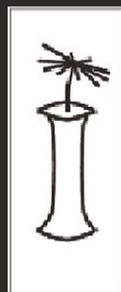
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# New Buckenham Parish Council

**Chair:** Karen Hobley  
(01953 860529 / [karenhobley@hotmail.com](mailto:karenhobley@hotmail.com))

**Vice-Chair:** Andrew Bingham  
(01953 861150 / [andrew.bingham100@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.bingham100@gmail.com))

**Councillors:** Don Crossman (01953 861246)

Mary Dowson (01953 860320)

Steve Highton (01953 860499)

Mary Manning (01953 861242)

**Clerk:** Trevor Wenman  
(01379 641423 / [parishclerk@newbuckenham.net](mailto:parishclerk@newbuckenham.net))

The Parish Council meets at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month. At present, the meetings are being held online via Zoom. Further information about how to join these meetings, and the Parish Council more generally, can be found on our notice board on the Village Green or on our website [www.newbuckenhampc.info](http://www.newbuckenhampc.info).

Contributions for the March 2021 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6:00pm on Monday 22nd February 2021 to Linda Bryan, Pine Cottage, Marsh Lane (861107), Michael Boswell, Peel House, Chapel Street (860015), Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136) or by email to [editor@newbucknews.co.uk](mailto:editor@newbucknews.co.uk).

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