

New Buckenham Parish News



October 2024

Cover photo credit: Janet Trewin (article pages 6-7), Lesser Horseshoe bat



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New Buckenham Parish News

October 2024

Good Companions

The meeting held in the Village Hall on 19th September was attended by 15 members. We wish all those who were not feeling well a speedy recovery.

We were entertained by Simon from Natural Surroundings, Norfolk Wildflower Centre, near Holt with a very interesting talk – he is someone we will ask again – even those with hearing aids could hear him. Tea was served by committee members.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th October at Castle Café at 2:30pm. New members will be made very welcome – for more information please contact Diana Cole on 01953 860636 or myself on 01953 860467.

Christine Wilby

Sponsor the Parish News

This month's issue is kindly sponsored by the Hupton family.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *Parish News* or advertising in the magazine, please contact Mary Dowson on 01953 860320 or email mdowson@btinternet.com.

Parish News Committee

Fireworks Display and Bonfire

Saturday 2nd November 2024

We will be having the New Buckenham Firework Spectacular and Bonfire on Saturday 2nd November at the Village Hall – as always we will try to out do last year's fantastic display!

As usual we will have burgers, hot dogs, delicious soups, hot punch and of course the beer tent. Also this year we will be providing hot drinks as well. We do not have cashless facilities so please be prepared with notes and coins.

Parking: Parking is always at a premium on fireworks night. We appreciate that some inconvenience is caused for the few hours during the event, and we thank those affected for their patience. We would urge people coming into the village to car share wherever possible and park considerately, depending on the ground conditions we may be able to utilise the cricket ground car park. Parking at the Hall is strictly limited to disabled visitors only.

Helpers: If you would like to get involved in helping in the evening i.e. bar/bbq/soups or setting-up during the day, contact me as below or just turn up. A grateful and warm welcome to anyone who can lend a hand! Also, on Sunday morning we will need help with the final clear at the site.

Soups: The soups always go down very well, and we are very grateful to the generous villagers who kindly provide them. I will be contacting the regulars shortly but if anyone else can make a pan full then please let me know.

Punch: Donations of red wine for the punch always very welcome please bring round to Conifers, Marsh Lane, or contact me.

Bonfire: Again, the bonfire will be on the amphitheatre side of the playing field and we will be building it on the morning of the event.

We have to be very mindful of the regulations covering bonfires regarding pollution as enforced by the relevant environmental agencies and as such we are not able to accept anything apart from clean wood – we will have no choice to refuse unsuitable material so please do not be offended. The site is monitored so please do not leave anything in advance!

Many thanks.

Jon Halfacree

01953 860064 / jonhalfacree@btinternet.com



Wednesday
Community café
New Buckenham Village Hall 1pm to 3pm

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WEEK WITH A
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PERHAPS A BOARD
GAME.
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Everyone welcome
Weekly from 30th October

Let's hear it for the BATS!

Ok. That is physically not possible. They are swirling around the village in silence, but like MI5, we have them under surveillance. Most of you will have seen them at some point and we have been recording and identifying them for 10 years, thanks to the amazing, unique citizen science project: The Norfolk Bat Survey. It was set up by internationally renowned, award-winning scientist, Dr Stuart Newson, of the BTO, known to us as “Batman Superior”. The idea has gone global now and Stuart spends a lot of time abroad promoting this detective work. He's just back from Tarragona, Spain, where he's been presenting at the European Bat Symposium, held every three years. The work to improve the identification system he designed goes on. It's a hugely complex combination of biology and technical innovation with, as he pointed out at the conference, the goals of improving the data quality in planning decisions, upgrading knowledge of the species, and building new communities of citizen scientists. Well, that last aim seems to have been achieved in New Buckenham.

When our recordings first started in this village, we were able to confirm that 9 of the 18 UK bat species were in residence, including four of the most endangered species as categorised by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). This year however the score is up to 12...or is it?

We have monitored the Lesser Horseshoe bat in at least two different locations. One in a back garden in the heart of the village and the other actually inside the church. But, here lies controversy, because there are no officially accepted recordings of this bat in England. They've suffered a marked decrease in recent years. There's some evidence that they've been spotted in the West Country and Wales. Their maternity roosts are usually in buildings, so it may be that development is the problem. They feed on flies (mainly midges), small moths, caddis flies, lacewings, beetles, small wasps and spiders, all of which are affected by farming practices.

And then, of course there's the Greater Horseshoe bat which we recorded in the Castle. More controversy. There hasn't been a proven sighting in Norfolk. Their numbers have declined by 90% in the last 100 years. There is some evidence that they too are over on the west side of the country.

So, all we can do is to keep recording in the hope that the echolocations become 100% accurate and undeniable. All bats are protected, even the most prolific – the Common Pipistrelle. It is classified as “least concern”, i.e. not immediately facing extinction, but its numbers have crashed by 55% since the 1960s, although they seem to be stabilising now. They weigh as little as 3g. You could fit one into a matchbox. Yet they eat as many as 3000 insects each night. By contrast, Barbastelles are categorised as “vulnerable”, i.e. they have “a high risk of extinction in the wild”. They have been recorded in many locations around New Buckenham including taking a royal flight path around the castle and also visiting St Martin's church. It's unlikely that they've actually taken up lodgings there. It's more likely they are in the village for food, thanks perhaps to the valuable effect of New Buckenham being a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI). Barbastelle roosts are incredibly rare which is why, in August, Natural England called for the Norwich Western Link road (part of the NDR) to be scrapped because it's known there is a Barbastelle roost there. But, for whatever reason, our detectors here in New Buckenham have clocked them and we'll carry on spying on them until we understand what they're up to!

Janet Trewin

News from the Pews

We hope everyone enjoyed the final throes of summer and are not too downcast by like the sudden onset of Autumn. We're hoping to put off having to run the heating in the church for a while yet!

Coffeemates!: Thank you once again to everyone to who came to drink coffee, eat cake and chat at the September Coffeemates! We were raising funds for Home-Start Norfolk, a local community network of trained volunteers and experts, helping to support families and young children in challenging times. £150 was raised, which when Gift Aid was added meant we could donate £187.50 to their invaluable work, so thank you for all the drinking and eating you did! We tend to support lesser known charities, who don't have the advertising clout of larger organisations when it comes to raising funds. So our final gathering this season is for YANA (You Are Not Alone). They are a mental health charity, providing help for those involved in agriculture and other rural businesses affected by stress and depression. It was started by the Norfolk farming charity the Clan Trust when it launched the You Are Not Alone project in 2008 – now known as YANA. We're delighted that Melinda from the charity is coming to the coffee morning to support us and to say a few words about the charity, so do please come and hear all about them. And the date? Saturday 12th October, from 10.30am – see you there!

New PCC Member: We are delighted to welcome Kathie Steel to the PCC. Kathie is in charge of the book stall and helps not only at Coffeemates!, but other events and is a reader at services. A full list of PCC members is posted on the noticeboard in the porch and do contact any of us if you need any information or have any questions.

Book Stall: Talking of the book stall thank you, too, to everyone who supports it with your donations of books and money; it is a valuable source of income for the upkeep of the church.

Bats in our Belfry: I mentioned Janet Trewin's bat survey last month and said that we would be putting together a small exhibition in the porch of the information she collated. Apologies if you went to find... no exhibition. This will be there this month, we promise.

Save the Date: Whilst it is probably too early to mention the "C" word, we will holding a traditional carol service in the church on Sunday 8th December at 3pm. There will be all the favourite carols, followed by refreshments (but wrap up warm!).

Contact details: Rev Sarah Walsh is always happy to visit or chat. You can contact her on 01953 571549 or 07809 430967. For any queries do contact me.

Louise Casson (Churchwarden)

01953 860191

St Martin's Services: October 2024

Sun 6th	10:00am	Group Service at Quidenham Rev Sarah Walsh	Trinity 19 Proper 22
Sun 13th	4:30pm	Choral Evensong Rev Sarah Walsh	Trinity 20 Proper 23
Sun 20th	11:00am	Holy Communion Rev Sarah Walsh	Trinity 21 Proper 24
Sun 27th	11:00am	Morning Prayer Val Plummer (AWA)	Last Sunday after Trinity

For more information about services, contact:

Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549)



Village and Vestry

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Saturday 2nd November (10.30am)

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New Buckenham Parish Council

Summary of Draft Minutes September 2024

Present: Mary Manning (MM), Paul Martin (PM, Chair for this meeting), Mary Dowson (MD), Karen Hobley (KH), Steve Highton (SH) and Angela Thornton (AT, Clerk)

Also in attendance: Steve Askew (SA, District Cllr) and 2 parishioners.

1. Minutes approved July meeting
2. Matters Arising
Village Gateway: design submitted, awaiting installation date.
3. Public Participation
 - a) Parishioners
 - i) A request for a small skatepark, to include a half pipe, to support skateboarders etc. Cllrs supported the idea in theory and advised speaking to the Village Hall Trust who own the land where the current BMX track is located.
 - b) District/County Councillor Report
 - i) Kenninghall Pantry will be running the Old Buckenham community food van in future.
 - ii) SA will investigate the possibility of a grant for the skatepark if the project is supported.

c) Parish Councillor Reports

- i) KH: historical information has been passed to the Clerk for archiving.
- ii) MD: requested that succession planning be put back on the agenda.
- iii) MM: reported that the cycle track on the Wymondham Road has become very overgrown and the gate to the footpath in Marsh Lane is broken.

4. Financial Matters

- a) July and August Bank Reconciliation approved.
- b) Payments for September approved.
- c) Transfer of £1,500 from the Business to the Community account approved.
- d) An application to the Community Project Fund has been received and will be considered by the Group in due course.

5. Amenities

- a) Cemetery: pruning the hedge line to be considered.
- b) Allotments: annual billing to take place and vacant plots allocated.
- c) Play area: annual inspection to be discussed in October.
- d) Footpaths: High London Farm path – fence and stiles causing problems for walkers. Action AB.
- e) Grounds Maintenance: nothing to report.
- f) Closed Churchyard: scything has been done.

Continued overleaf...

g) Defibrillator:

- i) A half yearly review took place in July.
- ii) County Broadband (who funded it through their Hypercharged Foundation) are providing a plaque to celebrate NBPC as the first recipients of their grant scheme.

6. Correspondence

Marie Curie requested a donation. £50.00 was approved.

Mary Dowson for New Buckenham Parish Council

New Buckenham Parish Council

Chair: Andrew Bingham (01953 861150 /
cllr.andrew.bingham@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Vice-Chair: Paul Martin (01953 861117 /
cllr.paul.martin@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillors: Don Crossman (01953 861246)
Mary Dowson (01953 860320)
Steve Highton (01953 860000)
Karen Hobley (01953 860529)
Mary Manning (01953 861242)

Clerk: Angela Thornton (01953 887830 /
parish.clerk@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Parish Council meets at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall. Further information can be found on our notice board on the Village Green or www.newbuckenhampc.info.

August Fete 2024

So, looking back to August Bank Holiday Monday it was a lovely day both in terms of the weather and also the turn out – a steady amount of people throughout the afternoon who enjoyed the various stalls, attractions and displays.

We are still waiting for a couple of expenses to come in but we expect the total raised to be around the £6,000 mark again, so a massive thanks to everyone who selflessly gave up their time and effort in helping make this another tremendous success!

We will be having a post-fete meeting on Wednesday 16th October at the Village Hall 7:30pm and would welcome ideas/suggestions on how to distribute the money to local causes, the Church, Village Hall trust and High Bailiffs trust are “regular” beneficiaries and in past years we have made donations to the Good Companions and also the *Parish News*, but we are very open to other groups.

Next year’s Fete will be Monday 25th August so put it in your diary!

Jon Halfacree

Treasurer New Buckenham Fund Raising Committee

jonhalfacree@btinternet.com

White Elephant Stall 2024

We would like to thank EVERYONE who was involved with the White Elephant stall at the village fete: donating, sorting, selling, and clearing up afterwards. It was a wonderful afternoon making over £1,000 on the stall. We couldn’t have done it without you all!

Roll on 2025 (God willing)!

Janet and Audrey

Life Under The Limes: Wildflowers

There are several organisations who define what a wildflower truly is, which is a little confusing and potentially open to broad interpretation. Some of these definitions are as follows:

- *“When used without any additional description or qualification 'wildflower' is a term taken to mean a plant indigenous to the country or region in which it is being referred to. 'Wildflower' could also be applied to naturalised plants as well as native.”* (RHS)
- *“A wild or uncultivated flowering plant.”* (Dictionary of Environment and Conservation)
- *“Plants growing in a natural state independent of humans, therefore not cultivated.”* (General Environmental Thesaurus)
- *“Flowers that are naturally growing in the wild.”* (Meadow Mania)
- *“Wildflower species that are naturally found in the UK, rather than introduced from elsewhere and if its presence is not due to human intervention.”* (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew)

There are also plants described as naturalised, native, non-native, and alien which are not quite the same as wildflowers:

- *“Naturalised plants are those that have been introduced into the wild through human agency and become established there.”* (RHS)
- *“A native plant is a plant which arrived naturally in the UK since the end of the last glaciation (i.e. without the assistance of humans) or one that was already present having persisted during the last ice age.”* (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland)

If an escapee garden plant becomes established without human help and persists and reproduces it is considered naturalised. Non-native plants are those that occur outside their natural range due to direct or indirect introduction by humans.

Alien plants are those which have been deliberately or accidentally introduced by humans and are categorised as either archaeophytes or neophytes. Many plants which are considered weeds are archaeophytes. They were introduced by humans, often early farmers from the Neolithic period (circa 1400 BC) up to 1500 AD. These are now thoroughly naturalised and include poppies and cornflowers amongst others. We see these as traditional, but they are not native.

Neophytes first came to this country circa 1550 AD when the New World was discovered. Plants previously unknown to this part of the world were imported here for commercial purposes or for gardens as ornamental exotics. Sometimes these escaped from gardens for example Ragwort and Crane's Bill which are so common would not now be considered aliens and which we may consider to be wild.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 8, has a list of nearly 200 plants which are protected under law clearly showing these are wild, but does not list those which are not rare, threatened or endangered. I wonder how many of the listed plants would be classed as archaeophytes and neophytes?

Underneath the two lime trees and the space next to them against the wall of Wisteria house has been cleared of tough grass and nettles. The wavy edge of the area by the wall was dictated by some of the wildflowers growing there such as the ever-expanding patch of primroses. When the grass in front was cut back, where there had previously been moisture encouraging the growth of a carpet of moss, it was dry and dusty, and the moss had disappeared. The shadow of the wall and blades of long grass leaning over the area had not been sufficient to hold in the moisture. Even though it may seem the longed-for hot summer days were not that frequent, the higher temperatures were sufficient to completely dry out any hitherto damp and productive places.

Continued overleaf...

As part of the preparation for the wildflower seeds, the earth was scarified – the surface being scratched rather than dug over, to make it potentially easier for the germination of the sown seeds. Eleven different, some shade-loving, species of flower seeds have been sown in the wavy bed by the wall including ribwort plantain, Canterbury bells, bluebells, foxgloves and poppies.

One seed head of ribwort plantain could have up to 10,000 seeds which are naturally spread by the wind. The seeds germinate and develop quickly. They contain a water retaining 'gel' that allows them to germinate in dry spells. The seed can also lie dormant for 50 to 60 years in the earth if the conditions for germination are not right. Next summer when they reach maturity, there will be a beautiful edging of plants with long, narrow leaves and tall flower spikes in front of the stick pile bug house. Being pretty much indestructible even when mown, the ribwort plantain should continue for many years.

Two small plants of Canterbury bells were already growing by the wall. Once ripened, the seed was collected then sown in a wider circle around the existing plant, spreading it a little further than would have happened naturally. Germination usually takes two to four weeks during which time a seedling will appear looking like a single stem of mustard and cress topped with two tiny leaves.

Foxglove seeds take two to three weeks to germinate, liking sunlight and not to be covered by earth. In their first year, the plant concentrates on producing a strong rosette of leaves creating the right condition for the flower spike to appear the following year, so the flowers will show in the summer of 2026.

Having not been particularly aware until last year of how bluebells reproduce, I was surprised to see that once the flowers begin dying back, a little black seed appears in the papery dead flower head. How enlightening! I had previously understood that all their reproductive magic happened underground with the bulb producing little bulblets and

spreading that way. Apparently, the seeds take much longer than the bulbs to produce flowers – up to five or six years after sowing. It could be anything up to 2030 before we may see them reach fruition.

The poppies are really there by default. In my enthusiasm to collect ripe seed, remove them from the seed pods, sieve out the larger pieces of pod that I couldn't pick out by hand and store them in their own individual pot before sowing, I accidentally mixed the foxgloves and poppies together. To the naked eye poppy seeds are tiny black dots with foxglove seeds looking very similar although browner. I thought the lighter seed was a different poppy variety. Under the microscope, the poppy seed is not a uniform shape with its surface covered in joined up hexagon-like veins. The foxglove seeds are similar but are a lighter colour and the surface pattern, although similar, looks more like a low wall than a vein. Foxgloves and poppies seem a complementary mix so perhaps the accidental mix will not be a bad one, as long as they don't try to out compete each other.

Under both the lime trees has also been sown with locally collected seed. The tree nearest the road has a selection that enjoys more full sun with the second tree a slightly different mix as it is a little more shady. Altogether, the seed from 22 different species of wildflowers has been collected from around the village and sown around the two trees and by the wall. It may take two to three years to properly establish by which time there should be a representation of the many flowers which grow locally that, by growing here, will be able to escape the overzealous cutting along our road verges and hedgerows.

Next spring and summer we should have a bright, varied and ecologically important display of local wildflowers. But...as the position and type of seed was most definitely due to human intervention will they be TRULY wild?

Kim Cutmore

Weavers (by the sheep)

Parish News

As well as the print version, *Parish News* is also available digitally. So, if you would like to receive a electronic copy of *Parish News* by email in PDF format as well as a paper copy please fill in a subscription form at: <http://eepurl.com/dhB-1P>.

You can also find an online archive of past issues of *Parish News* at: <http://www.newbuckenham.net>.

Older issues of *Parish News* dating from the 1970s can be found on the New Buckenham Archive website:

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Parish News Committee

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Dates For Your Diary

October 2024

Tues 8th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat 12th	Coffeemates!, St Martin's Church, 10:30am
Weds 16th	August Fete meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thurs 17th	Good Companions, Castle Café, 2:30pm
Weds 30th	Community Café, Village Hall, 1-3pm

November 2024

Sat 2nd	Village & Vestry coffee morning, St Martin's Church, 10:30am
Sat 2nd	Fireworks Spectacular & Bonfire, Village Hall, evening

The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley

07469 715517 ~ bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk

Contributions for the November 2024 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Sunday 20th October to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane (308427) or by email to editor@newbucknews.co.uk.

TO ADVERTISE: please contact Mary Dowson on 01953 860320 or mdowson@btinternet.com