

New Buckenham Parish News

A poster for a firework display. The background is dark purple with several colorful firework bursts in yellow, orange, and blue. The text is arranged in a central column. At the top, 'FIREWORK DISPLAY' is written in large, multi-colored, outlined letters. Below that, 'New Buckenham Village Hall Playing Field' is written in a light blue sans-serif font. Then, 'Saturday 2nd November' is in orange, followed by 'Gates open 5.30pm | Bonfire 6.00pm' in white. On the left, a list of activities is in white cursive. On the right, a list of ticket prices is in white sans-serif. A red banner with white text is in the bottom right corner of the poster area.

**FIREWORK
DISPLAY**

**New Buckenham
Village Hall Playing Field**

Saturday 2nd November
Gates open 5.30pm | Bonfire 6.00pm

*BBQ, Beer Tent,
Hot Punch, Soups,
Hot Drinks, Doughnuts
& Chip Stall*

Adults: £8
Under 16's: £5
Under 4's: Free
Family Ticket: £25

**We can accept
CASH ONLY**

November 2024



A warm welcome from our team will greet you at The King's Head. Once inside, you can expect a cracking pint, a glass of lovely wine or a G&T at the bar, along with some delicious classic British dishes from the kitchen.

Market Place, New Buckenham
NR16 2AN

www.thekingsheadnewbuckenham.co.uk

New Buckenham Parish News

November 2024

Golden Ticket

This December, join New Buckenham Players in the wonderfully whimsical world of Roald Dahl. Bring friends and family as we take a trip through Wonka's Chocolate Factory and experience the magic and mystery within... But please be on your best behaviour, as misbehaving audience members may not leave the way they came in! Performances of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* are on 5th, 6th and 7th December at 7:30pm, with a matinee at 2pm on 7th December at New Buckenham Village Hall.

Doors open half an hour before the show starts with refreshments available from the bar.

Tickets can be bought at King's Stores or online from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/new-buckenham-players/e-pqjamx>

Price £10 / £8 Concessions / £5 Under 12s at matinee.

Ellie Hupton

Sponsor the Parish News

This month's issue is kindly sponsored by New Buckenham Cricket Club.

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.

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



Village and Vestry

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 2nd November (10.30am)

Freshly brewed coffee



Hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream

Christmas tray bakes

Cake

Mince pies

Raffle and Stalls



St. Martin's Church New Buckenham

Do join us for our coffee morning with a Christmas twist!



Football Focus

New Buckenham Junior Football Club

New Buckenham Junior Football Club has had an amazing start to the season and is flourishing with five teams: Under 7s, Under 9s, Under 12s, Under 13s and Under 14s, plus the Young Bucks. Most squads are currently full, but the Under 14s (school year 9) are on the lookout for new players and the Young Bucks (school years R, 1 and 2) can take in new players for training sessions only. We are currently supporting between 80 and 100 children from New Buckenham and surrounding area, who don't need to be dragged kicking and screaming away from their PlayStations, but join in with all the activities which are offered to them with great enthusiasm.

The success of the Club is undoubtedly down to the amazing group of coaches and helpers who are willing to give up an evening each week for training and part of each weekend to support the youngsters in their matches. They also have to complete various compulsory courses before they can start to coach, as well as DBS Checks. They should be admired and applauded for their dedication to the Club.

We also have 'on the bench' a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Club Welfare Officer who spend time each week ensuring that the Club runs smoothly. However, we are about to lose our Chair and Secretary, who have both served the Club amazingly for many years, so if anyone would be interested in finding out more and taking over or sharing one of these roles, please let me know.

With the increased number of teams, we are also in need of more (paid) referees or people who would be willing to take a referee's course in order to support teams at matches.

In addition, we always need extra pairs of hands, so if you would like to join the Club and help in any way, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the relevant person.

There is a Club website (newbuckinghamjfc.co.uk) which gives further information about the Club and a Facebook page with details of upcoming fixtures. Matches are played on the Village Hall field with the exception of the Under 7s, who play on the cricket field as our success means that we have run out of space at the Village Hall! There are usually matches taking place on Saturday and Sunday mornings, so do come and watch as the youngsters would very much appreciate your support.

In conclusion, I think it is fair to say that football's not 'coming home' to New Buckenham and its surrounding areas, it has already well and truly arrived!

Karen Hobley

karenhobley@hotmail.com

Thank You

On behalf of all the trustees of the Parochial Parish Council, may I thank you and all the Fete committee for the generous gift of £1,000 from the August Fete. We know that the Fete demands the efforts of many and we also thank all of them for all their efforts. It is appreciated, not only by those benefitting financially but also the village and all the visitors. It was most encouraging and a testament to your efforts that so many attended and so much was raised for village organisations.

Be assured that your donation is used to maintain the church and the running costs so that we will be here when you need us.

We thank you again and wish good fortune in all your future efforts.

Jimpy Casson

Treasurer

News from the Pews

coffeemates!: Last month was our final coffee morning of the year, before the weather means we have to turn on the heating. It was in support of YANA and we were delighted that Melinda from the charity was able to join us to tell us of their work and even donate a harvest-festival-themed raffle prize! With Gift Aid, we raised £233 towards their invaluable work.

I say “we”, but it should really be “you”, because without your support each month we wouldn’t be able to raise money for the charities. The seven coffeemates! this year raised an amazing £1,725, including Gift Aid, so thank you to everyone who comes to drink, eat and chat, to everyone who bakes, and to everyone who helps to clear up at the end.

We now take a break until the weather improves in the spring and we aren’t shivering and keeping our hands warm clutching cups of hot liquid, but don’t forget Village & Vestry’s coffee morning on 2nd November, when not only will there be delicious cakes, but also various craft stalls for a little early Christmas shopping, perhaps?

Remembrance Sunday: there will be a service in the Church on 10th November, starting at 10:45am, when we will remember those who have died in conflict, particularly from the village, and lay wreaths.

Christmas: given that the shops now have Halloween displays colliding with Christmas stock, it hopefully isn’t too early to mention Christmas! As noted last month, we will holding a traditional, candle-lit carol service at 3pm on Sunday 8th December. Come along to sing your favourite carols, enjoy some post-singing refreshments and get into the Christmas spirit. On Christmas Eve, we will be celebrating at Midnight Mass, starting at 11:30pm, and on Christmas morning take a break from the bruhaha and join us for a service at 10:30am.

Bats in our Belfry: I hope you've had the opportunity to look at the exhibition in the porch, which we will be leaving up. There is also a booklet inside the church with more information on the different species, including 'New Buckenham's' bats. Thank you again to Janet Trewin for monitoring them and providing us with the information.

Contact details: Revd 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) on 01953 860191

Thank You Too

A big thank you from the High Bailiff's Trust to the Fete committee for their generous donation of £1,000 from Fete funds. As you may know, we maintain the Market Cross, village green, church clock and the Chapel Street pump. We hope that we have maintained the green it to a reasonable standard this year with the efforts of Phil Anderson and co., to whom we also pass our thanks.

Any monies we receive are used only to support the assets mentioned above and nothing goes outside the village.

Jimmy Casson

Chairman, High Bailiff's Trust

December and January Issue

A reminder that the next issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* is a double issue, covering both December 2024 and January 2025.

Contributions should be submitted by Wednesday 20th November. Further details on how to get in touch can be found on the back page.

Parish News Committee

Thanks for Caring

It's a big thanks to everyone that I have seen and thank you for your concern and asking how I am. Well, I am up and about although I have the occasional twinge just to remind me to be cautious.

Just to let you all know, I didn't have a fall and I certainly didn't have a stroke. For several years I have occasionally had muscle spasms in my lower back as a result of many happy hours spent toiling over a spreadsheet when, I am reliably informed, your back muscles are carrying 140% of your body weight (a question of mechanics I don't fully understand), but eventually they object and when I bent down to attach the dogs' leads at the end of the walk I had a spasm to end all spasms.

As I lay there by St Mary's Chapel, unable to stand, I thought myself very foolish not to have my phone with me. Fortunately Helena appeared and kindly took the dogs home. In the meantime, Dominic and his grandfather Gordon called an ambulance and chatted to me whilst immobile. Thank you both, especially Dominic. After two hours the ambulance arrived, pain relief given and they managed to get me up and ambulated home.

As you can well imagine Louise was not happy and quite rightly has given me a lot of grief about not carrying my mobile with me. Mind you, when she had to take over walking the dogs, she forgot her mobile. Hah!

Many, many thanks are due to Carolyn who stepped in and walked the dogs for a week and a half allowing Louise to work from home and care for her poor old husband. Also thanks to Janet Webb who gave me a poem, a jar of plum jam (very good it is too) and challenged me to a game of Scrabble. Sorry Janet, too high on drugs to concentrate but maybe one day soon. And thanks to everyone who

offered to help, to walk dogs and suchlike. It was heartwarming to get so many offers and also notes of well wishing. Thank you all.

I'm almost back to normal and doing the exercises to strengthen my back, carrying my phone and trying not to bend over too much.

Oh, and thanks for hearing about all your tales of back pain!

Jimps

St Martin's Services: November 2024			
Sun 3rd	10:00am	Group Service at Old Buckenham Rev Sarah Walsh	All Saints' Day
Sun 10th	10:45am	Remembrance Service	3rd Sunday before Advent
Sun 17th	11:00am	Morning Prayer Bill Rout AWA	2nd Sunday before Advent
Sun 24th	11:00am	Holy Communion Rev Sarah Walsh	Christ the King
For more information about services, contact: Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549)			

New Buckenham Parish Council

The Parish Council were pleased to welcome Tessa Draper to this months meeting. Tessa is working with other local Councils on climate and biodiversity issues and is keen to support New Buckenham PC on projects in the Parish. Tessa is planning on showing a film at the village hall in November – the film is titled Six Inches of Soil and tells the story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food – to heal the soil, and benefit our health and provide for local communities. The film will be followed by a Q and A session on climate and biodiversity issues. Further information on dates and times ill be circulated asap.

We also discussed with the football club using space on the cricket field for an under 7's football pitch – now agreed and I am sure you will have seen the pitch marked out and ready to go.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th November at 7:30pm at the Village Hall. All Parishioners are welcome – take the opportunity to raise any matters of concern and interest in the village.

Andrew Bingham

Chair, New Buckenham Parish Council (07702 119318)

Summary of Draft Minutes: October 2024

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Karen Hobley (KH), Steve Highton (SH), Don Crossman (DC) and Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk.

Also in attendance 7 members of the public.

1. Minutes

Minutes of September meeting approved.

2. Public Participation

- a) Tessa Draper presented her thoughts on delivering Community Climate Action in NB. She will be showing a film in the Village Hall to highlight these issues and requested a donation from the PC towards showing the film.
- b) David Holland explained that the establishment of an Under 7s Bucks football team had resulted in there being insufficient space at the Village Hall and requested the establishment of a pitch on the cricket pitch. KH stated the young Bucks now has 32 members. AB stated that a meeting had been set up between DH and the CC chair. Cllrs were supportive subject to an agreement between the two clubs.

3. Parish Cllr Reports

- a) KH reported that the village Christmas tree had been ordered.
- b) AB reported that NBVH had received a request from Anglian Water to install a mast and kiosk to enable smart water meters to be fitted to all properties in NB. The VH would receive an annual income for hosting the mast.

4. Financial Matters

- a) September Bank Reconciliation approved.
- b) Payments for October approved.
- c) Community Project Fund Applications
 - i) The Cricket Club application will be considered once requested documents have been received.
 - ii) The application for netting for the Football Club will be considered after permission is granted by the VH.

4. **Amenities**

Nothing new to report.

5. **AOB**

Cllrs discussed Tessa Draper's presentation and confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan contains NBPC's biodiversity plans. A donation to fund the Village Hall costs for the film was approved.

Mary Dowson for the 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.

Good Companions

The October meeting was held at the Castle Café, where 18 members had a delicious afternoon tea. Many thanks to the Castle Café for hosting us!

The November meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 21st November at 2:30pm, where we will be entertained by Carole Williams from Age UK.

New members will be made very welcome - for more information please contact Diana Cole on 01953 860636 or me on 01953 860467.

Christine Wilby



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

LETS BREAK UP THE
WEEK WITH A
WARMING CUPPPA.
JOIN US FOR A
CATCH UP AND
PERHAPS A BOARD
GAME.
EVERYONE IS
WELCOME.

Everyone welcome
Weekly from 30th October

New Buckenham Gardening Group

As you know, every year we have the Village Show and every other year, we have the Open Gardens, which helps to fund the Village Show. The Show has always made a loss in a number of areas especially as we traditionally like to hand out prizes and trophies which are engraved and would like this to continue. We realised many years ago that for this to continue, we would have to raise funds, so Open Gardens started. This has become an increasingly popular biennial event with many villagers generously opening their gardens to ever more visitors.

However, we do build up a surplus over a few years and we can then occasionally distribute this surplus. This year, we are in this position and various local gardening or horticultural schemes will be receiving money from us.

As a Committee, we have decided on the following:

- £500 to Old Buckenham High School, for their Allotments.
- £500 to Old Buckenham Primary School, for a garden project.
- £100 to Mandy Hartley, for the Village Hall Children's Garden.

This will leave approximately £1,000 to distribute to other local schemes, by way of grants. These must be local (within a few miles of New Buckenham), be of a gardening or horticultural nature, and must not be a commercial project. There are a few other criteria, so if you would like to know more, and then apply for a grant, please contact Lynn Carter (lynnrcarter222@gmail.com) or Karen Hobley (karenhobley@hotmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.
Lynn Carter, for the Gardening Group.

New Buckenham Village Show

Classes for 2025

It is time to start planning for the 2025 show so the Committee are announcing the classes that need a little planning and work.

For 2025, the photography classes are:

- Having Fun
- Shadows
- Interesting Architecture
- A dead or fallen tree
- Extreme Parish News Reading – take a photo of someone reading Parish News in an unusual place or situation!

This last class is making a welcome return after being absent for a few years – as a nod to the Show being in its 30th year.

For 2025, the Handicrafts classes are:

- A decorated box or lidded item (construct the box or buy one to decorate)
- A handmade crocheted or knitted item
- A decorated plant pot (up to 30cm diameter)
- A patchwork item or applique article
- A Christmas table decoration

Please note, all these should have been made since the 2024 show and not entered before.

The full schedule will be published around Easter 2025. Watch out for more details!

Lynn Carter, for the Gardening Group

First World War Rolls of Honour

Some of you may recall that in 2017 the two handwritten First World War Rolls of Honour in the church were professionally cleaned, conserved and re-framed, in liaison with the then vicar and churchwarden.

These are an important and rare pair of artefacts – one written during the war recording ‘Those on active service’ and one prepared later, listing ‘Those who served’ – containing some fifty names of local people, particularly those who gave their lives. Further details of the two documents can be found in the Parish News from September 2018: https://www.newbuckenhams.net/images/ParishNews/NB_ParishNews_2018-09.pdf

The two documents hung together in the church for five years, until the earlier of them was removed by the Parochial Church Council. After extensive debate, which need not be rehearsed here, I now have the original in my possession again. I include a photograph of the document here.

The document was housed in the church for a century and I am sure it ought to be back in the church and publicly displayed, as it was previously. It is an important historical artefact recording local people who we remember at this time of year gave their lives for our freedom and is a part of the history of the village. Accordingly, I invite the village Parochial Church Council to publicly explain its actions and hope that we can rectify the matter as soon as possible.

Charles Stimpson

(for more details, please feel free to contact me on 07919 592106 or charlie_4567@hotmail.com)

Roll of Honour

Names of Men from this Parish on Active service for their King and Country.

ALDRIDGE S. Sapper R.E. May 1917.	DEEKS W. R.G.A. May 1918.	HUNT O.D. R.D.F. Dec. 1914.	SADLER V.L. Norfolk Regt. May 1915.
ARNOLD E. Rifle Brigade Feb. 1918.	DIXON A.P. Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1914.	HUNT S.B. R.A.M.C. June 1915.	SADLER A.C. Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1918.
	DIXON E.E. The Buffs. May 1918.	HANNER J. Rifle Brigade. Jan. 1918.	SAUNDERS H.A. Royal Navy May 1915.
BAXTER F.H. Essex Regt. Sept. 1914.	DIXON J. A.S.C. Sept. 1914.	HOWLING H. R.F.A. April 1918.	SELF F. Yorkshire Regt. May 1918.
BAXTER F.T. Notts Regt. Sept. 1914.	DAVY REC. Canteen May 1918.	JACOBS J. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	SELF G. Training Pioneer. Feb. 1917.
BAXTER B.W. Can. Ex. F. Feb. 1918.			SEVILLE F. Norfolk Regt. July 1915.
BAXTER G.R. Sherwood Foresters Oct. 1914.	EVERETT A.E. R.F.A. Oct. 1914.	LAMBERT S.A. Norfolk Regt. Dec. 1918.	SEVILLE H. Norfolk Regt. Nov. 1914.
BAILEY G.C. R.E. June 1918.		LAMBERT F. Hampshire April 1918.	SEVILLE REC. May 1918.
BAILEY W. Norfolk Regt. June 1917.			SMITH E. Norfolk Regt. Jan. 1914.
BARKER S.R. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.	FARRROW W. Essex Regt. May 1915.	MAGGS W.J. R.A.M.C. Aug. 1914.	SMITH R.C. R.E. Mar. 1915.
BARKER J. Yorkshire Regt. Nov. 1918.	FARRROW J. Norfolk Regt. June 1915.	MAGGS R.W. A.P.O. Oct. 1918.	SMITH W.B. R.F.A. Apr. 1918.
BATTRICK L.W. Royal Navy Apr. 1918.	FOSTER R. Norfolk Regt. Nov. 1914.	MAPES C. R.D.C. Nov. 1914.	SNELLEN A. A.S.C. May 1917.
BERRY C.A.W. A.S.C. July 1918.		MAPES H. R.D.C. Jan. 1915.	SYMONS A.S.C. Nov. 1914.
BEALES H.J. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.		MAPES J. R.D.C. Jan. 1915.	SYMONS A.S.C. Nov. 1914.
BEALES C.W. Norfolk Regt. April 1918.	GARRARD W. Essex Regt. Feb. 1915.		SYMONS W.J. R.F.A. Feb. 1915.
BEALES C.T. Middlesex Regt. June 1918.	GARRARD E. Bedfordshire May 1915.		SNEELAND F. Norfolk Regt. May 1915.
BEALES H.A. King's R.R. Feb. 1917.	GODFREY R.B. NZEF. Oct. 1914.	OLLEY J. Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1917.	
BOLTON C. Royal Navy Aug. 1914.	COOCH A.W. Norfolk Regt. Sept. 1914.	OSBORN A.E. R.F.A. May 1917.	TITLOW W. A.S.C. Sept. 1916.
BRIGHTON R.W. Essex Regt. Sept. 1914.	CUOCH A.J. Bedfordshire Aug. 1914.	OSBORN H. Norfolk Regt. May 1914.	TITLOW W. A.S.C. Sept. 1916.
BRIDGES E. Norfolk Regt. Nov. 1915.	GIBBS C. Devon Regt. Aug. 1914.		TOOLEY H. Norfolk Regt. Dec. 1915.
BRIDGES E. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.		POWELL H.J. R.A.R. Sept. 1918.	TITE E. Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1918.
BROWN O.R. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.	HANNER G.E. A.S.C. Dec. 1914.	POWELL C.P. H.A.C. Aug. 1917.	
BULLOCK C. A.S.C. May 1918.	HEWITT G.H. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.	POWELL F. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.	WARD C. Yorkshire Regt. July 1918.
BULLEN L. Norfolk Regt. June 1915.	HEWITT C. Norfolk Regt. Aug. 1914.	PRENCHER W. R.G.A. Nov. 1915.	WARD C.L. Norfolk Regt. Oct. 1915.
BRICE W. Norfolk Regt. July 1918.	HOLL F. R.I.A.M. 2nd Div. May 1918.	PUGH J.S. Norfolk Regt. May 1915.	WEBSTER E. Norfolk Regt. May 1917.
	HOWARD G.E. Norfolk Regt. May 1915.		WOODCRAFT F.E. Norfolk Regt. May 1917.
CHAMBERS C. Can. M.R. May 1915.	HOWARD W.G. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.		WOODROW G.E. A.S.C. Feb. 1915.
CHAMBERS W. Yorkshire Regt. May 1914.	HOWARD R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	RICHARDS Rev. H. Norfolk Regt. May 1915.	WOODROW H.A. Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1915.
CHAPMAN S.L. A.S.C. Aug. 1915.	HOWLING F.T. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROBINS A. Norfolk Regt. July 1918.	WOODROW A.S.C. May 1917.
CLAXTON A. R.I.A.M. Dec. 1918.	HOWLING C.W. R.F.A. 3rd Div. May 1918.	ROBINS R.G. R.F.A. May 1917.	WATKINS Norfolk Regt. Feb. 1918.
CLOWES E.N. A.S.C. Nov. 1915.	HOWLING C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.J. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	
CLOWES R. Norfolk Regt. May 1917.	HOWLING L. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Essex Regt. May 1918.	
COLLINS J.L. Norfolk Regt. May 1914.	HOWLING R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	
COLLINS F. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	HOWLING R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	
COOPER E. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	HOWLING R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	
CUNY J. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	HOWLING R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	
CUNY J. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	HOWLING R. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	ROUT R.C. Norfolk Regt. May 1918.	

the Supreme Sacrifice.

Reminiscences of the Vicar's Daughter

In the first of a series of interviews, Kim Cutmore held a long discussion with Fizzy Whitwham [Thomas] about her reminiscences of childhood in the village, some of which are printed here.

"I was born in Royston in Hertfordshire. My father was rector of Steeple Morden and Guilden Morden, about 5 miles outside Royston. As he was getting older, he found the workload of a large rural parish was becoming too much for him. He was quite a lot older than my mother and saw moving to New Buckenham as his sort of retirement. It was very compact and small here so easier for him to manage.

My father had been an actor before he was a vicar. He went to RADA with Cicely Courtneidge, Margaret Rutherford and Mervyn Johns [Glynis Johns' father]. The night Glynis was born, my father and her father went on a three day bender so Mervyn didn't see his darling daughter until she was three days old! So I think my father was quite wild in his youth.

My father acted on the London stage doing musical comedy. He was a very tall man at 6' 6" and was a great tap dancer. Because he'd had another life, before he was a vicar, he was completely non-judgemental and very approachable. One of the things he used to do when he was vicar here was to go out in the morning, after breakfast time about 9.00 am to 9.30, wander round the village and if anybody wanted to talk to him he was there. Then he'd go out again about mid afternoon after lunch so if people wanted to talk to him they could. Then, he'd go out after 11.00 pm after the pubs closed and often didn't get in until about 2.00 am. You don't get that sort of pastoral care now. I think that's what he really liked about being a vicar - helping people. He was completely unshockable, a very kind man.

When we lived at Steeple Morden he always took in waifs and strays. My mother hated it! When we were little we had a German couple

living with us who had a Keeshond dog called Bravo and two cats. They all moved in. I think they were down and out through the war. Then we had somebody called Victor living with us who used to finance plays. He was a friend of Noel Coward's. He fell on very hard times during the war because there were no plays in London and he lost an awful lot of money. I think he then became an alcoholic. He lived with us and used to babysit until one day somebody in the village said to my mother, 'Do you think you ought to let that alcoholic man look after your little girls at night?' She hadn't thought of that. When we moved here she put her foot down and said, 'No more!'

We had lived in a very big rat-infested rectory in Hertfordshire that had about 10 acres of garden and 20,000 acres of glebe lands. I was 5 years old when we came here and I was upset! The house was small. After all, the rectory had a ball room! We were going to live in the Vicarage where Charles Oxley lives now. It was tiny. I couldn't believe that my father had come to this. Looking round the house before we moved in I can remember being very disappointed and saying, 'You're not moving here are you?' I was very thirsty and my mother took me to the downstairs loo to have a drink. There was running water in the vicarage unlike some of the houses in the village. My mother showed me how to cup my hands under the basin tap and drink from them.

At that time, the vicarage was longer at the front than it is now and it was thatched. The bit that fell down, or was knocked down, was out towards Chapel Street. It was in a terrible, dilapidated state having been letting the rainwater in. The church said they were going to knock that end down which they did and replaced it with lavatory brick. It had a matching Dutch gable end to the one that's still there. This end had been part of the hall and big kitchens. But I quite liked it that the old red tiled kitchen floor had been left because it was excellent to play ball games on. I could play tennis with myself and the wall! I used to spend hours playing tennis with myself.

In 1963 there was a very cold winter, it froze from Christmas day right through to Easter. There wasn't a thaw during all that time. It was so cold. Not a lot of snow but an awful lot of ice. Everybody's pipes froze in the village apart from ours. The hall used to be full of lots of village people sitting waiting for their turn to have a bath, with their towel and bar of soap, because nobody else had any water. The old part of the vicarage had three storeys. There were two rooms right at the top and the water tank was in one of them. It was very well insulated and as the pipes were big they didn't freeze. The Raeburn heated the water and my mother just kept stoking it. Where the garage is now was a stable which was always full of wood. Then there were two coal stores - one for anthracite and one had coke. We were always stoking the Raeburn for the bath water.

In my father's study we had a Parkray which heated a radiator in that room and one in the sitting room. There was another Parkray in the dining room which heated a radiator in there and possibly one in the passage down to the kitchen. We spent the winter stoking fires and stoves but it still didn't make it warm.

My sister and I shared a bedroom in the north-facing back of the house that had those big old sash windows that never fitted and rattled all night. The windows didn't just freeze over night, the water by the bed also froze. We did have a fire in the bedroom which I absolutely loved and have very fond memories of. Even with a fire in the bedroom though, the water still froze. My father used to tuck us into bed so tightly that the mattress came up around the sides.

I was desolate because the garden was just like a little patch even though it went all the way round the house. And it was full of wells. There was one where the new little brick building is by Chapel Street; there's a well inside the house which used to be where we kept the coke. There was one at the back of the house. If you go in through the gate, where there was always a vegetable patch but Charles now

has a summer house, there's one under the summer house. Somewhere over the other side there's another one and of course there's a big septic tank, not a cess pit. We didn't use the water out of the wells, it wasn't pumped into the house as my mother was terrified of them and had them all capped. I remember a village pump in front of the whipping post and the one up Chapel Street.

Nobody went out on a Friday because the village stank as the midden man came round and emptied everybody's buckets. He arrived in an old fashioned lorry with a sort of tank and he just tipped the buckets into the lorry. The lavatory was an Elsan, basically a bucket with a seat on it. Mains drainage didn't come to the village until 1969. The water table is quite high so practically every house in the village had a well and they used a tin bath.

When I was a child the village wasn't neat and tidy as it is now. The green, which is now all nicely edged, people used to park their cars all over it. Not that there were that many cars. There were no cars parked down King Street but if people parked for either pub they'd park on the green. So, the green was very churned up with a track going across it.

Then Tony Hamerton, the doctor decided it needed to be better and I remember probably in early 1961 there was a great tree planting of three horse chestnuts in a sort of triangle. They were also planted all along the common. I think the plan was to have more of an avenue coming down into the village but also to be some sort of shelter for the grazing cows and perhaps to stop them from wandering into the road."

You can find more of Fizz's stories online in the New Buckenham Archive: newbuckenhamarchive.co.uk. Here you can find out from Fizz why there was a queue of villagers in the vicarage hall, each clutching a towel and bar of soap; and how Fizz succumbed to temptation in Mr Lynch's 'help yourself with a basket' fledgling supermarket-style shop.

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Sat 2nd	Fireworks Spectacular & Bonfire, Village Hall, evening
Sun 10th	Remembrance Service, St Martin's, 10:45am
Tues 12th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thurs 21st	Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm

December 2024

Thurs 5th	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri 6th	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat 7th	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> , Village Hall, 2pm & 7:30pm

The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley

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Contributions for the December 2024 / January 2025 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Wednesday 20th November to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane (308427) or by email to editor@newbucknews.co.uk.

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