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New Buckenham Parish News

August 2025

New Buckenham Parish Council

I am sure most of the village are aware of the incident that occurred on Friday 11th July, when much of the village lost their electricity supply. Significant damage happened in Church Street and people were trapped in a vehicle with a live electricity cable over the roof. We understand that this was caused by a lorry collecting the (now redundant) paper recycling bins from the Village Hall. We are grateful to the emergency services for rapidly attending, and to UK Power Networks for making the cables safe and evacuating the people from the vehicle – a very traumatic experience. UK Power Networks worked late into the evening to re-build the cable network and restore power first to the more distant parts of the village and then to Church Street.

This incident did raise concerns over difficulties the Fire Service had in getting to Church Street – car parking on Queen Street blocked access and cars had to be moved before the fire tender could get through. This has brought to the fore other traffic problems in the village and created an opportune time to discuss these.

The Parish Council will be holding an Extraordinary Meeting at 15:30 on Tuesday 12th August at the Village Hall. An officer from Norfolk County Highways will be at the meeting. All parishioners are invited and there will be an opportunity for all to have their say – it may be necessary to limit the time each person is able to speak depending on numbers attending.

Andrew Bingham

Chair – New Buckenham Parish Council

August Bank Holiday Fete

The Village Fete will be returning this year on Monday 25th August (1pm start). The fete will follow a similar format to last year, with the usual attractions and fun for all the family at the Village Hall.

Those of you who kindly helped out last year will no doubt be contacted by me over the next few weeks in the hope that we can sign you up for this year. **WE ARE VERY SHORT OF HELPERS ON FETE DAY THIS YEAR, SO IF YOU ARE ABLE TO OFFER SOME TIME PLEASE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP.**

Please also note the following:

WHITE ELEPHANT STALL: If you have good-quality items to donate, please contact Janet Webb (860450) or Audrey Dowling (861155) to arrange for drop off. If necessary we can arrange for the collection of larger items. No electrical items or large furniture please.

BOOK STALL: Books are being stored by Carolyn Hupton. Either leave in the garage of Beech House or call Carolyn (860216) if you need to arrange for collection. No magazines or outdated technical/educational books please.

NEARLY NEW: Very good-quality clothes only please. Please drop off items with me at Bailey, King Street or contact me on 07534 353713.

TOMBOLA: We are looking for donations for prizes for the tombola. There will be a collection box in Kings Stores and the Church or please contact Maria Lloyd (861229). Toiletries, 'unwanted' gifts, boxes of sweets or chocolates, wine, etc., would be much appreciated as well as prizes for children.

VINTAGE OR UNUSUAL VEHICLES: This has been a popular attraction at previous fetes. If you have a vintage or unusual vehicle you would like to display, please contact Clive Rush on 860572 or call in at Mill House Garage.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved for your help – it is very much appreciated!

Jon Frith

Bailey, King Street / 07534 353713 / jon.frith@frith-blake.co.uk

August Bank Holiday Fete – Big Raffle

The raffle has been a big contributor to the amount of money we have raised in previous years, so please spread the news.

Tickets will be delivered to New Buckenham residents (and slightly beyond) a couple of weeks beforehand. They will also be available at Kings Stores and directly from me if you require any more to sell on to work colleagues, friends and family. The remaining tickets will then be available to buy on fete day.

If you do not wish to purchase the tickets, please return them to either the shop or to me as we can then sell them on fete day.

This year the prize list is:

1st Prize: £500.00 cash!

2nd Prize: Nintendo Switch 2 worth over £400!

3rd Prize: Dinner, bed & breakfast at The Crown Hotel, Wells-next-the-Sea.

And many more...

Jon Frith

Bailey, King Street / 07534 353713 / jon.frith@frith-blake.co.uk

Good Companions

The meeting held on 17th July was attended by 16 members. We were entertained by Christine from the Flower Club with a demonstration of flowers in a basket and then attempted to make one ourselves. Afternoon tea was provided by the committee.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st August at 2:30pm in the Village Hall.

All new members will be made very welcome. For more information, please contact me on 01953 860467 or Diana Cole on 01953 860636.

Christine Wilby

News from the Pews

coffeemates!: Thank you to everyone who came and supported the July coffee morning, when we were raising funds for Nelson's Journey, the children and young people's bereavement support charity. We may have been few in number (probably due to the glorious weather), but you still raised £135, so thank you for your generosity.

Our next coffeemates! is on 9th September at 10:30am. This month we are raising funds for Vision Norfolk. For 220 years they've been providing support to people across Norfolk with vision impairment, helping them to lead more fulfilling, independent lives. We thought this would be an appropriate tribute in memory of Rosemary Winsor, so we hope to see you there. And bear in mind, if the sun is splitting the stones, the church comes into its own!

Bats in our Belfry? Yes there are!: In June, Janet Trewin carried out another survey of the bats in and around the church, following on from the one she did in 2024. The results have been most interesting and are described in full on the next pages. There is a booklet in the church with the results of both the 2024 and 2025 survey, so do go and have a look. Thank you, Janet, for carrying out the survey and producing the new information!

Book Stall: too hot to do anything... but read (preferably with a long cool glass of something to hand)? There's a plethora of excellent fiction to be found in the book stall, so pop along and enjoy browsing in the cool. So far this year an amazing £450 has been raised, which is wonderful and very much appreciated in helping to keep the building going.

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

Louise Casson (Churchwarden) 01953 860191

St Martin's Services: August 2025

Sun 3rd	10am	Benefice Service at St Mary's, Banham	7th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 10th	4.30pm	Choral Evensong	8th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 17th	11am	Morning Prayer	9th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 24th	11am	Holy Communion	10th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 31st	10am	Group Service with Banham & Old Buckenham at All Saints, Old Buckenham	11th Sunday after Trinity

For more information about services, contact:

Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549)

200 Club Lucky Winners

Thank you for your continued support of the Village Hall. Here are the lucky winners for the latest draw.

£20	Matt Greenacre, Brian Grindley, Ian Ludbrook
£10	Janet Webb, Gordon Chase, Lol Satchwell, Mandy Hartley, Ryan Cattermole, Don Crossman, Paula Davy

Bats in the Belfry

The bat count inside St Martin's church in 2025 is another triumph, although perhaps not so joyous for the cleaners! It was done at approximately the same time as last year, but what a difference in the weather! The drought will have had a serious effect on bats countrywide – reducing a bat's favourite platter, insects. However, we can report that in and around the church we have recorded no fewer than 12 of the UK's 18 species of bat, including some of the rarest. The 52 acres of Common/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the compact nature of the village is undoubtedly what makes the area a fabulous home for wildlife of all sorts.

It's important to note that the recordings are a guide, rather than an unequivocal number count. For technical reasons, interior recordings can be complicated. The readings show the identity of each species as a percentage likelihood of accuracy, categorising some as of 'low confidence', meaning that the sound is at a distance from the microphone making it difficult to be certain or that the bat is making a call that is similar to that of another type of bat.

There's no way of ensuring the numbers are absolute. It's always possible that a bat might circle the microphone dozens of times just to confuse us. We haven't found that yet, but who knows?

Our highest count is of the Serotine, which is both vulnerable and rare. It is the most building-orientated species. It's hardly ever found in trees, preferring the high points in churches and old towers.

The person we have to thank for our ability to see in the dark is Dr Stuart Newson. He's visited a number of times and offers advice and help with our citizen science surveys. He is the Senior Research Ecologist with the British Trust for Ornithology and the inventor of this ultrasonic classifier, allowing so much more to be understood about wildlife and conservation. He is constantly upgrading the equipment, which is now available worldwide. His knowledge is scary, which is why he flies around the globe lecturing, overseeing and advising on birds and mammals, not to mention crickets and moths.

The recording equipment was installed for four nights in June. Afterwards, the microphone was placed outside on both the north

and south sides of the church for three nights in each case. The microphone goes live at sunset, switching on and off dependent on the echolocations it detects, which is why passing humans don't have to fear being overheard!

The results show 12 species of bat in and around the church, which is incredible. Those not inside the building are often recorded whizzing around outside in the churchyard. Compared with 2024, only one species is missing altogether, whilst another, different one, pitched up.

The one missing is the Lesser Horseshoe bat, but it's known that it prefers the Westcountry and Wales. Our surveys have recorded a rare tourist or two of this variety, but they are quite often categorised as of 'low confidence', meaning it might be something else. It's one of the smallest of bats – the size of a plum and weighing 5g – so, maybe, a move to this side of the country is a flight too far.

On the other hand, a Whiskered Bat turned up this year; or did it? They are very similar to Brandt's bats and were only separated as two different categories in 1970. We know for sure that we have quite a good showing of Brandt's bats, which did not appear around the church at all in 2024.

There are 18 bat species in the UK, 12 of which are recorded in New Buckenham. Some of them are regional, due to the weather conditions, etc. Of the six most endangered species, four are found in New Buckenham. The other two (the Greater Mouse-eared bat and the Grey Long-eared bat) are southerners. Our collection features: Barbastelles (vulnerable), Serotines (vulnerable), Leisler's bat (near threatened), Nathusius pipistrelle (near threatened), Noctule bat, Brandt's bats, Daubenton's bats, Whiskered bats, Natterers bat, soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, Brown Long-eared bat.

Janet Trewin

New Buckenham Parish Council

Summary of Draft Minutes: July 2025

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Dowson (MD), Mary Manning (MM), Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk, and three members of the public.

1. Minutes: June minutes approved.

2. Matters Arising

Moat Lane - after investigation with Land Registry it was concluded that NBPC has no responsibility for the moat area along Moat Lane. Therefore this project will not be pursued.

3. Public Participation

a) Patrick Winsor informed the council that his mother, Rosemary had died and thanked the Council for all its work during his parents' lifetime. The PC expressed their sympathy to the Winsor family.

b) Alice Cattermole reported on Speed Watch. Police have suggested that NBPC request from Highways a 'Children's Play Area' sign, as speeds of up to 47mph have been recorded. It was also suggested that the flashing 20mph sign is replaced with a sign depicting actual vehicle speed.

4. District/ County Councillor Report: None.

5. Parish Councillor Reports

a) PM stated that following last month's meeting the Clerk submitted concern to BDC regarding the felling of trees at a property in New Buckenham.

b) AB informed Council that the Inn on the Green's replacement windows have been investigated and no further action will be taken.

c) KH requested that the village notice board be revamped.

d) MM reminded parishioners to complete the online Devolution survey.

6. Financial Matters

- a) June Bank Reconciliation approved.
- b) Payments for July and August 2025 approved.
- c) Community Project Fund - following the receipt of Village Hall accounts, the payment of £5,000 for theatre lighting will be processed in July. The football club grant has been partially spent, a request to alter the equipment for the remainder will be circulated. A request for £315.00 to replace the entrance ramp to the church was approved.

7. Planning: None.

8. Amenities

- a) Grounds Maintenance - re-tendering will take place in October.
- b) Closed Churchyard - MM confirmed volunteers will be working on flower beds.
- c) Cemetery - none
- d) Allotments - no vacant plots.
- e) Play Area - fence on the zipline side of the area needs repair.
- f) Defibrillator - new pads have been purchased and replaced.
- g) Footpaths - footpath 1 is closed until 2026. No change to footpath 14.

9. Correspondence

SNAP meeting 10th July. AT to attend.

Village Hall Trust nominee requested - AB to continue his role.

Mary Dowson for NBPC

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This issue of the *Parish News* has kindly been sponsored by New Buckenham Players.

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

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.

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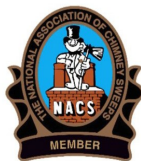


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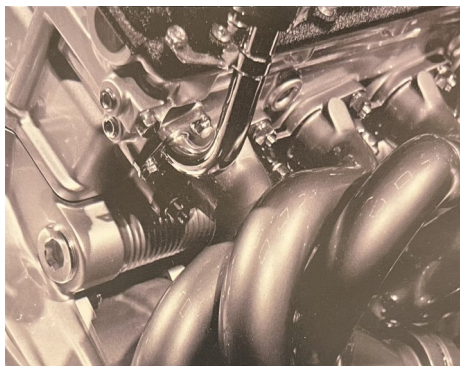
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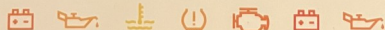
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Dates For Your Diary

August 2025

Tues 12th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 3:30pm
Thurs 21st	Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Mon 25th	Village Fete, Village Hall and Field, 1pm

The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley
07469 715517 ~ bookings@newbuckenhambvillagehall.co.uk

Contributions for the September 2025 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Friday 22nd August to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane or by email to editor@newbucknews.co.uk.

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