

# **New Buckenham Parish News**



**October 2025**



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# **New Buckenham Parish News**

**October 2025**

## **Ten Years Old**

The New Buckenham Archive website celebrates its 10th birthday in October. It started as a collection of old photographs of the village, but now includes documents, articles, old advertisements and other records. There are now about 100 pages and over 400 images.

The Archive is widely seen, indeed it prompted an American professor of English history and his PhD student to visit the village as part of a study tour in June.

Old photographs of the village, its people and events are eagerly sought to add to the collection. Please rummage around for any such material you might have and we'd be delighted to see it. Old photographs are never too old, small or in poor condition to be considered for copying as an invaluable resource.

The cover shows a watercolour painting from the Norfolk Museums Service collection depicting Marsh Lane 135 years ago. It was painted by Bosworth W Harcourt on 11 September 1890 and shows the buildings on the right up to Lane's End, which were gradually replaced by a garden wall, a garage and Flint Lodge. The top of Palmers shop (three storeys) on the corner of the Market Place is just visible.

The New Buckenham Archive is online at  
[www.newbuckenhamarchive.co.uk](http://www.newbuckenhamarchive.co.uk).

*Charles Oxley*

*01953 860708*

# Cuffer Lane is an RNR outpost!

No, it's not the Royal Naval Reserve! But it is a reserve. A few weeks ago, a couple of wooden posts with small laminated notes attached were placed 251 metres apart at the far end of Cuffer Lane, where it joins with Folly Lane, on the east side. They declare the verge between them is now officially an 'RNR'. The questions are never ending, so I hunted down the boss to get the right answers.

Meet the very helpful and hugely knowledgeable, Dr Jacqueline Zavala. She's the Head of Norfolk County Council's Greenspaces Team.

So, Question One: What the heck is an RNR? It's a Roadside Nature Reserve. First introduced in the 1990s, they are specially defined sections of verge managed by NCC to 'preserve and enhance biodiversity'. They include some of the last remaining, precious fragments of Norfolk's natural grasslands, i.e. fields that have never been ploughed or sprayed with chemicals. Today there are 300 RNRs across Norfolk. This one is RNR 260. You may think that a verge is insignificant, boring and, frankly, untidy.

So, Question 2: Why go to the trouble of making it an RNR? Surprise, surprise! Norfolk's RNRs, measuring 100 kilometres of verge, are equivalent to 57 football pitches! The Cuffer Lane RNR, although short, covers an area of 1,657m<sup>2</sup>. Think of the wildlife that land could feed and offer shelter to. Really? Most of the time this road edge looks like grass, grass and more grass!

So, Question 3: How did that stretch deserve a designation? It appears that a member of the community who does a lot of cycling and taking notes of interesting things informed Dr Zavala's team. She sent out a botanist, who checked it out and verified a 60-strong species list, including agrimony, perforate St John's wort, reed mace, large skipper butterfly, white throat and so on. The concept is that RNRs support meadow plants and grasses that are important for pollinators, like bees and butterflies. They also serve as wildlife



corridors, linking habitats and supporting species movement across the landscape.

But, Question 4 : Why was such a short section designated? Why not the rest of the Old Buckenham stretch along with the New Buckenham end, which, honestly, has much more wildlife to show? And why not both sides of the lane? Sadly, the botanist who collected the information last year has since been made redundant, so we can't ask them why, and the Greenspaces Team is, inevitably, short of staff and funds.

So, Question 5: Is there some sense in extending the RNR to the whole of Cuffer Lane on the east and west sides to protect more wildlife? Dr Zavala says, 'Yes. Collect the information along with any extra evidence, like pictures, computer data and the Team will assess it.' They will visit the site, talk to local landowners and the two Parish Councils concerned, and assess both the environmental value and, most importantly any health and safety issues. If it is agreed and they can find enough money to pay for more wooden RNR posts (they've recently hit rock bottom on that score) it could be designated by spring next year.

OK. So, Question 6. What exactly is so important in Cuffer Lane that deserves protection? You'd be amazed. There is here an astonishing wealth of wildlife. In fact, more than 200 species, many of them officially 'threatened' or 'endangered'. So many birds we once would have thought common, have been red listed because they are now increasingly rare, but not on Cuffer Lane! Turtle doves, red listed since 1996, and also red listed: mistle thrush, greenfinch, skylark, linnet, house martin, fieldfare, yellow hammer, swift, cuckoo, bee orchids (protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and so much more. And, of course, as we know from nearly 10 years of BTO surveys, there are at least 12 UK bat species on the lane – 4 of them categorised as 'vulnerable' and 'near threatened' – namely barbastelle, serotine, leisler's bat and nathusius' pipistrelle – all of which have been recorded on the Lane feeding between the hedges

and trees which offer them a motorway style take-away as they whizz up and down.

So, Question 7: How are they going to protect the RNR? You might think NCC would be delighted to register the verge as it wouldn't have to mow it. Money saved. That isn't how it works. The mowing is reduced, where possible, to once a year. It takes place in September, which allows the flowers to die back and set seed. Then, they remove all the cuttings. It may seem counter intuitive, but the purpose is to prevent the leaves and twigs acting as a mulch which would enrich the soil. That would result in other plants overwhelming the rarer ones, which have a talent for surviving in poor ground. Who knew?!

OK. That isn't the end of the questions, there are loads more. Not least, can the enthusiastic Dr Zavala find the funding? She's keen to try. She has now been given extensive wildlife records from interested villagers in New Buckenham and is enthusiastically vetting it all. Old Buckenham Parish Council are on board. The Chair has the information and is passing it on. If you have anything to add to the debate or want to find out more here's a link:

<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/roadside-nature-reserves>  
[norfolkgreenspaces@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norfolkgreenspaces@norfolk.gov.uk)

*Janet Trewin*

## **Sponsor the *Parish News***

This month's issue of the *Parish News* is sponsored by the New Buckenham Fundraisers.

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](mailto:mdowson@btinternet.com).

*Parish News Committee*

# **New Buckenham Village Hall at 30!**

The Village Hall celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, having hosted its first event in 1995. I remember it well, as it was the Village Quiz. The previous week had been a case of 'will we? won't we?', as we were unsure whether the Hall would be ready in time. A huge team of people worked incredibly hard to get it ready and we were all systems go without too many last-minute panics. However, I do remember that when I had transformed myself into the role of a world-famous quiz presenter, I was asked if I could give the urinals a quick wipe! Really?! We were also warned that we couldn't wear stilettos on the new floor - not a problem for us even 30 years ago! Everyone had a great evening and it was thanks to the commitment of many people that we finally had our Village Hall up and running.

In the intervening years, the Hall has hosted annual village events - the Hair of the Dog Walk, the Art Exhibition, the Village Show, the Village Fete, the Village Bonfire and the Players' Christmas Production - and Open Gardens and the Photoshow every two years. It has been the home of the Players, the New Buckenham Silver Band, the Wargamers, the Good Companions, a youth club, badminton club, Impatiens and Retreat Textiles, the Ballet School and, more recently, the Flower Club, Fitsteps, the Winter Warmer Café and Arron Reed's Fitness classes. The flourishing Junior Football Club is also based at the Hall. There have also been many one-off events, meetings, sales, charity events and opportunities for people to come together.

The Hall has hosted christening parties and weddings and supported those who are grieving with wakes being held, giving the bereaved the opportunity to grieve together and reminisce.

Huge thanks should go to everyone who worked so hard to get the Hall built and all the Trustees and Administrators who have worked hard running the Hall and who have contributed massively to its success over the last 30 years.

The Village Hall remains at the heart of the village - a place of which we are all very proud and where a very warm welcome is extended to EVERYONE! Happy Anniversary New Buckenham Village Hall!

*Karen Hobley*

# The Village Show 2025

It seems quite a long time ago, but it was only a few weeks. We are already planning for the next Village Show and Open Gardens, but more about that later. Let me just say at this juncture that we are very grateful to everyone who entered, especially those competing in any of the vegetable or flower classes. The weather was particularly unkind to growers this year. We have encountered weather problems in previous years but none like this. As an example, John Frost, an expert grower from Old Buckenham, could only manage second place with his tiny carrots and this in a field of one.

The total number of entries for vegetable classes was slightly down compared to previous years, as were flower classes, reflecting the problems with weather. And the flower arrangements, always of a high standard, had only two entries compared to twelve entries last year.

On a brighter note, cookery classes were well supported and the cookery judge had her work cut out on the day. Also the handicrafts received terrific support and Brian Camp ran away with all the silverware for the photographic classes.

The star of the show was Tahlia Hobley, who at the age of only 11 competed in the Chocolate Cheesecake class and got Best in Show from the judges. She is the youngest entrant to have won this coveted title and she was presented with the Frank Clark Rosebowl which she keeps (and polishes) for a year. Let's hope there are more youngsters out there wanting to have a go in the adult classes and win prizes.

Like all events in this village, there is a multitude of people involved in the organising and running of the Village Show to make sure that it all goes without a hitch. I don't feel I do people justice on the day as we have so little time to cram in the presentation of so many prizes. So to all of you a big vote of thanks for all your efforts.

Catering crew, a fabulous lunch and a great way to thank the Judges who give up their Saturday to come and do their bit in New Buckenham.

Tea crew, many thanks and the raffle and tombola teams who raise so much money for us and all those who helped set up and clear down, a

time for muscle and brawn which we lack on the Gardening Group.

I think that's everyone, no, wait a minute, there's the committee. They attend meetings, agonise over the schedule and the rules and are there from the beginning of the show to the very end. Thanks to you and everyone else.

## Open Gardens

As you all know, we have Open Gardens every other year and 2026 is the next date. This raises lots of money for us to run the Village Show, with enough to support gardening projects in the village and neighbouring villages, providing they include children.

In the past we have had approximately 20 gardens and 300 visitors. We hope to do the same again next year so if you would like to participate in this worthwhile venture, please let me know.

You will be hearing more from us about the Show and Open Gardens in the months to come. So I would like to finish with a thanks to all who help the Gardening Group operate, we couldn't do it without you.

*Jimpy Casson*

*Gardening Group*

## Good Companions

The meeting held on 18th September was attended by 14 members. We were entertained by Matt Wicken from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust with a talk about the Sweet Briar marshes near Norwich. Tea was served by the committee.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th October at 2:30pm in the Village Hall.

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

*Christine Wilby*

# Fireworks Display and Bonfire

Saturday 8th November 2025

We will be having the New Buckenham Firework Spectacular and Bonfire on 8th November at the Village Hall – Pete and Dan from the fireworks team are already planning to outdo last year's spectacular display! As always we will have burgers, hot dogs, delicious soups, hot punch, hot drinks and of course the beer tent. Also this year we will be providing hot drinks as well.

**Parking:** Parking is always at a premium on Fireworks night and 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 utilize the cricket ground car park. Parking at the Village 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 will be extended to anyone who can lend a hand! Also, on Sunday morning we will need help with the final clear up at the site.

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

**Bonfire:** 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!

*Jon Halfacree*

01953 860064 / [jonhalfacree@btinternet.com](mailto:jonhalfacree@btinternet.com)

# **WINTER WARMER**

# **CAFE**

## **EVERY WEDNESDAY**



**STARTS OCTOBER 28TH,**  
**1.30PM TO 3.30PM**  
**NEW BUCKENHAM VILLAGE HALL**



# New Buckenham Parish Council

The next meeting will be on the 14th October at 7:30pm at the Village Hall. All are welcome and will have the opportunity to raise any matters of concern.

*Andrew Bingham*

*Chair – New Buckenham Parish Council*

## Summary of draft Minutes August 2025

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Dowson (MD), Mary Manning (MM), Don Crossman (DC), Steve Highton (SH), Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk, Luke Denny (LD) Highways representative NCC and 31 members of the public.

### 1. Highways Issues

The Chair AB opened this extraordinary PC meeting with public participation regarding highways issues. He explained the meeting would be recorded to support AI Minutes and speakers would be restricted to 3 minutes.

Parishioners raised many issues related to parking and speeding within the village. LD acknowledged concerns and committed to review his notes and will follow up with detailed responses and potential actions.

### 2. Matters Arising

a) BDC will take no action regarding the felling of trees adjacent to the Common as it is outside the conservation area.

b) The village map on the noticeboard is to be reprinted.

c) The Village Hall theatre lighting is now operational.

### 3. District / County Councillor Reports

None.

### 4. Parish Cllr Reports

a) MD noted that at July's meeting council had agreed to pursue new playground signage and a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM)

which indicates real speed to drivers approaching the 20mph zone.

b) MM suggested that options from the highways discussion be summarised and that PC, High Bailiff's Trust. Highways dept and the police meet to agree solutions.

## **5. Financial Matters**

a) July Bank Reconciliation approved.

b) Payments for August and September 2025 approved.

c) Community Project Fund - the ramp for the Church has been purchased.

## **6. Planning**

None.

## **7. Amenities**

a) Grounds Maintenance - tender will be drafted for consideration at October meeting.

b) Closed Churchyard - MM highlighted that the lime tree at the entrance on Church Street needs attention possibly pollarding. Agreed to ask Broadland Tree Services to quote. Conservation grass to be scythed and cleared.

c) Cemetery - none

d) Allotments - no vacant plots.

e) Play Area - fence on the zip line side has been repaired at no cost, thanks to Phil.

f) Defibrillator - KH to check if all 999 calls register the device unavailable.

g) Footpaths - MM highlighted that parts of the electric fence are laying on the ground, possibly live. AB to notify the grazier.

## **8. Correspondence**

It was agreed to make a £50 donation to the Royal British Legion.

*Mary Dowson for NBPC*

# August Fete 2025

We were very lucky both in terms of the weather and also the turn out this year – a lot of people arrived throughout the afternoon who enjoyed the various stalls, attractions and displays.

A big thank you to all those who gave up time both staffing the stalls and those who helped set up on the Sunday and dismantling Monday evening – without this help nothing would be achieved.

Still waiting for some expenses to come in but the final total raised will be in the region £6,700, which will be the most we have ever raised!

We will be having our usual post-fete meeting on Wednesday 15th October at the Village Hall 7:30pm and would welcome ideas/suggestions on how to distribute the money out 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* and both the Cricket and Junior Football Clubs, but we are very open to other groups, etc.

*Jon Halfacree*

*Treasurer New Buckenham Fund Raising Committee*

*jonhalfacree@btinternet.com*

## White Elephant Stall

Hello everybody! I am sorry to say that this is my last White Elephant stall. Alan and I moved here in December 1978 and were asked to help at the annual fete, which was held on the village green. He helped with manual stuff, while I helped on the White Elephant stall. I loved it and it was a great way to meet people and make friends.

Time moved on, as did the fete. The Village Hall was more convenient for everything and a lot safer. The fete has grown and much more money has been made for village activities, towards the upkeep of the Village Hall and for the church. But the time has come for NEW VOLUNTEERS to take over!

It is quite exciting to open bags, parcel and boxes, never quite knowing what you might find to price and sell. Time passes quickly as well when you have a lovely friend like Audrey to help and pack and laugh with. I did have a 'proper' job as well as doing this. Anything electrical we passed on to The Big C shop at Wymondham, who then checked it and sold it in their own shop - a win-win situation!

I will be available to advise and tell the secrets of making money to anyone who is interested in doing this very rewarding job. I found it very satisfying to help recycle things people threw away.

I must thank ALL my very willing helpers on the stall - 14 of them this year - I could not have done it without you! Thanks also to all the people who donated - without 'stuff' there would not be a stall!

*Janet Webb*

## 200 Club Lucky Winners

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

£20	Caryn Louis, Kerstin Kappler, Rebecca Cubley
£10	Paul Dowing, Chris Pearson, Hayley Knight, Diana Cole, Fiona Paul, Matt Hall

# News from the Pews

**coffeemates!:** Thank you to everyone who came in September to drink coffee, eat cake and, probably more importantly, have a good chat. Your generosity raised £163.40 towards St Martin's fabric.

Our final coffeemates! of the season, before it gets just too cold to enjoy eating, drinking and chatting, is on Saturday 11th October, when we will be holding our annual fundraiser for YANA, the charity helping those involved in agriculture and other rural businesses affected by stress and depression. We look forward to seeing you!

**Further Heartfelt Thanks:** This time to Village & Vestry, who have very generously given us a donation of £500, raised through their hard work fundraising for the church. We are going to use it towards paying for new lights in the chancel. For a while now the choir and our organists have been asking if they could have more light, as they struggle to read the music clearly, particularly in the darker months. We know, too, that visiting choirs and organists have said that they love coming to St Martin's, but it's a little dim! We are therefore putting the princely donation from Village & Vestry towards the cost of installing low-energy and more environmentally friendly LED lights. The work will take place on 6th October and take a couple of days, so if you go into the church don't be surprised to see a scaffolding tower.

If you have sat in the pews at a service or other event, you may have felt a little uncomfortable. There are some pew cushions, but they have been *in situ* for decades and are getting a little thin and threadbare. We have therefore taken the plunge and will be replacing them. We are asking a non-profit organisation called 'Devon Disability Collective' to make them. DDC provide meaningful employment for people with disabilities through their commercial enterprises and one of their specialities is making pew cushions! We feel it important that we support such organisations.

**Peace Vigil:** We hope that those who came to the vigil found it peaceful and thoughtful. When we are leading such busy lives, it is easy to forget that we have much to be grateful for, particularly in this disordered, sometimes frightening world. Spending a little time in quiet reflection of those far less fortunate than us allowed us time to think, whether you meditated or prayed.

**Books:** Thank you all for continuing to support the book stall. Kathie has been kept very busy with your donations!

**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: October 2025

Sun 5th	11am	Holy Communion	16th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 12th	4:30pm	Choral Evensong	17th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 19th	11am	Morning Prayer	18th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 26th	11am	Holy Communion	19th Sunday after Trinity

**For more information about services, contact:**  
Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549)

# BUCKENHAM CASTLE



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--

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## 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](http://www.newbuckenhampc.info).

Castle Cafe offers great breakfasts, lovely lunches and drinks in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We also have a cosy club upstairs with a dining table and sofas to relax, which is also suitable for groups and meetings!



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# St Mary's Residential Care Home

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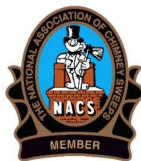


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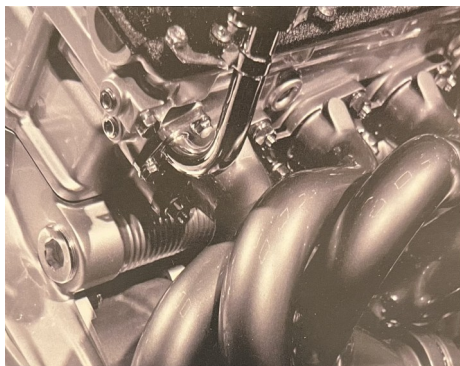
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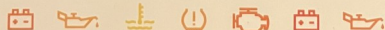
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A festive poster for a Christmas Craft Fair and Destash. The background is dark green with white stars and dots. At the top, there are holly leaves and red berries. The main title is in a large, white, stylized font. Below it, the location is written in a cursive script. A large, light-colored arch contains a red banner with the date, the time in green block letters, and the text 'Something for everyone' and 'Refreshments available'. At the bottom of the arch is a tan box with contact information. A small holly sprig is on the right side of the arch.

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AND DESTASH

*New Buckenham village hall*

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

**10AM-3PM**

**Something for everyone  
Refreshments available**

**FOR MORE INFO CALL VICKI ON  
07894063642**

# Dates For Your Diary

October 2025	
Sat 11th	Coffeemates!, St Martin's, 10:30am
Tue 14th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Wed 15th	Fundraiser's Post-Fete Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thurs 16th	Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri 24th	Buckenham Castle Lecture, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Wed 28th	Winter Warmer Café, Village Hall, 1:30pm
Sat 8th Nov	Village Fireworks Display

The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley  
07469 715517 ~ [bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk)

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

**TO ADVERTISE:** please contact Mary Dowson on 01953 860320 or [mdowson@btinternet.com](mailto:mdowson@btinternet.com)