



# New Buckenham Parish News



# Rapunzel

By Ben Crocker

December  
4th / 5th / 6th  
at 7:30pm  
Saturday Matinee 2pm  
New Buckenham Village Hall

£10 / £8 Conc / £5  
under 12s at Matinee

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**December 2025**  
**January 2026**





  
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# New Buckenham Parish News

December 2025 and January 2026

## New Buckenham Players

Join us this December on a magical, family friendly adventure to... the pub!?

New Buckenham Players presents *Rapunzel* by Ben Crocker. A fun-filled pantomime for all ages, that takes the fairytale we all know and love, then spins it sideways and takes us off the rails!

Performances are on the 4th, 5th and 6th December at 7:30pm, with a matinee on the 6th at 2pm. The Village Hall doors open at 7pm and the bar will be serving refreshments.

Tickets are £10 / £8 concessions / £5 for under-12s at the matinee and are only available from TicketSource, where you will be able to reserve your seats, so book early to ensure the best spot!

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

This year we'll be using some new sound equipment that we hope will enhance the quality & experience for the audience. A HUGE thank you to New Buckenham Fundraisers for the donation to purchase these and helping us grow as a group.

*Ellie Hupton*

*New Buckenham Players*

## Sponsor the Parish News

We are very grateful to the sponsors of this month's issue.

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

# CAROLS

AROUND  
THE  
TREE

Monday  
22nd  
December

at 6.00 pm

*Mulled Wine*  
*Mince Pies*  
*Raffle*

Donations  
will be given to  
"Nelson's Journey"

## **Carols Around the Tree**

If you would like to donate mulled wine, sausage rolls or mince pies, or you have any questions about the Carols Around the Tree, please contact Fi Gallimore on 07981 107703.

## **Hair of the Dog Walk**

The essential first event of the village's New Year will take place on 1st January. This will be the 29th walk. A cheerful crowd of walkers, their children, dogs and house guests will gather at the Market Cross at 11:00 am. Newcomers are especially welcome and there is no charge.

After a glass of 'the hair of the dog' and New Year greetings we then go on one of two guided walks. One will be around the castle and common, the other a little further afield. We will walk come rain or shine, so please dress appropriately.

*Charles Oxley*

*New Buckenham Society*

## **For Sale**

I have several Wasgij jigsaw puzzles for sale at £4 each or three for £10. Please do get in touch if you are interested.

*Audrey Dowling*

*01953 861155*

## **Seasons Greetings**

To all our friends and neighbours, merry Christmas and happy healthy new year. We will be making a donation to PACT animal sanctuary in place of sending Christmas cards this year.

*Janet and David Ovens*

# News from the Pews

2025 seems to have whizzed by and as it is now (scarily) December, it feels quite legitimate to mention the C-word...

**Christmas:** To get into the Christmas spirit and forget for a little while the whole frenzy of present buying and deciding what size turkey to get, we look forward to welcoming you at our Carols for Christmas on Sunday 14th December at 3pm. There will be more of your favourite carols to sing this year, followed by warming refreshments. On Christmas Eve we will be celebrating Midnight Mass at 11:30pm and on Christmas morning join us for a service at 10:30am, an opportunity to take a pause in the hyperactivity of Christmas Day. We do turn on the heating for these services! The Church always looks splendid at Christmas, thanks to the wonderful efforts of Village & Vestry, who not only fundraise for the fabric, but decorate the church at Christmas and Easter.

**New Pew Cushions:** You'll find that the pews are a little more comfy now, as the new cushions have at last arrived! We think they look very splendid and are certainly less uncomfortable.

**Thank You:** Obviously the PCC are responsible for trying to keep the building in good shape, but there are many others who work very hard on our behalf and deserve a roll-call: to Margaret Ward, who weekly refreshes and arranges the flowers; Christine Wilby who polishes all the brass to within an inch of its life; Sally Thompson who is on the rota to unlock and lock the church; to Nigel Lond-Caulk who organises raising the flags and the Christmas cross; to Clive Rush for generous donation of a Christmas tree; and to the Parish Council for maintaining the Churchyard – we say a very big THANK YOU! I am sure that I have forgotten someone, one always does, and to them I apologise, but rest assured that we are immensely grateful for all that everyone does.

**Children's Corner:** We appreciate that at this time of the year it might be a little nippy to visit the children's corner, but the area has now had a bit of a spruce up, with a new sofa and carpet, and all the toys cleaned, so we hope you enjoy.

**Services in January:** I know that we haven't even got through 2025 yet, but the services for the start of the New Year are listed overleaf. The church will be open every day during the Christmas and New Year period, from about 9:30am until dusk.

Finally, from us all at St Martin's we wish you, your family and friends and very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

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) on 01953 860191.

## **Good Companions**

The meeting held on 20th November was attended by 14 members. We were entertained by Simon from Natural Surroundings at Holt. Tea was served by the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December at 12 noon (please note the day change) and this will be our Christmas lunch party.

There will be NO meeting in January, so the first meeting of 2026 will be on Thursday 19th February at 2:30pm in the Village Hall.

The committee and members of the Good Companions wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy new year!

*Christine Wilby*

## St Martin's Services: December 2025

Sun 7th	11am	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday of Advent
Sun 14th	3pm	Carols for Christmas	3rd Sunday of Advent
Sun 21st	11am	Morning Prayer	4th Sunday of Advent
Weds 24th	11:30pm	Midnight Mass	
Thurs 25th	10:30am	Christmas Day Worship	Christmas 1
Sun 28th	9:30am	Joint Service at All Saints' Old Buckenham	1st After Christmas

## St Martin's Services: January 2026

Sun 4th	10am	Benefice Service at St Mary's Banham	Epiphany
Sun 11th	4:30pm	Evensong	1st Sunday of Epiphany
Sun 18th	11am	Morning Prayer	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Sun 25th	11am	Holy Communion	3rd Sunday of Epiphany

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

# Fundraisers Do It Again!

On behalf of the Village Hall Trust, we would like to say a really big thank you to those who organise the village fete and for everyone who helps and, of course, comes along and makes their contribution.

The Village Hall received a donation of £1,250 from the fete this year. It is a welcome contribution to the upkeep of the Hall. Your Village Hall celebrated its 30th birthday this year and has a rather long list of maintenance jobs that will need to be done and paid for over the coming year. Thanks to a very successful fundraising fete for helping us with this work!

*Juliet Fulford*

*New Buckenham Village Hall Trust*

## **William Barber's Almshouse Charity Notice of Almshouse Vacancy**

Notice is given that a vacant almshouse exists for this Charity, which will be available early in 2026. Persons in need, residing in the parish of New Buckenham, are eligible for appointment.

Application for appointment must be made by telephone or email to either the Clerk or Chair of the Charity (details below) on or before 10th January 2026

Every applicant must state their name, address, age and occupation and their reason/evidence for appointment.

In special cases to be approved by the Charity Commission, persons who have a current or previous link to New Buckenham or do not possess the prescribed qualifications as to residence may be considered.

Almspeople are required to contribute a weekly sum towards the cost of maintaining the almshouses.

Please contact either Jon Frith (Chair of Trustees) on 07534 353713 or [jon.frith@frith-blake.co.uk](mailto:jon.frith@frith-blake.co.uk) or Jen Shorter (Clerk) on 07768 313701 or [jenshorter@icloud.com](mailto:jenshorter@icloud.com).

# **New Buckenham Parish Council**

All parishioners are invited to the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9th December 7:30 at the Village Hall. As always there will be an opportunity to raise any issues from around the village with Councillors.

In last month's meeting (see the Minutes, below) we agreed to apply to Norfolk County Council for an improved speed warning sign, and 'Playground' signage on the approach to the village from the Bunwell direction. The speed sign will replace the existing sign and will flash and advise drivers of their actual speed. Hopefully, this will encourage more drivers to reduce their speed down to the legal 20mph limit and raise awareness of the playground and of the presence of children in the vicinity of the playground. The new speed sign will have the added benefit of providing data on vehicle speeds which can be used to assist in our justifying other speed control methods in the village.

Our local district and county councillor gave an update on Local Government Reorganisation. Various options have now been put forward to create unitary authorities, which will result in the loss of the District Council tier of local government.

One issue that has been raised with the Parish Council is obstructions on the footpaths in the village, particularly plant and shrub pots. Some pots are positioned in rarely used sections of footpaths and do not cause a problem, others are more prominent and can result in pedestrians having to step into the road. It will be appreciated if owners of pots could be sensitive to blocking pedestrians and remove or reposition them.

The Parish Council wish all parishioners an enjoyable festive season and a happy New Year.

*Andrew Bingham*

*Chairperson – New Buckenham Parish Council*

# Summary of draft Minutes November 2025

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Dowson (MD), Mary Manning (MM), Don Crossman (DC), Steve Askew (SA) District/County Cllr, Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk and one member of the public.

## 1. Minutes

Minutes of the October meeting approved.

## 2. Matters arising

- a) NBPC will apply to the Parish Partnership by 1st December for funding for previously discussed Highway issues.
- b) The village map on the noticeboard is to be reprinted - ongoing.

## 3. Public Participation

A member of the Cricket Club apologised to residents for parking/traffic issues on the night of the Bonfire Event because of the high numbers attending and parking in and around the village. Discussion took place and NBPC suggested that bollards on key routes should be used to ensure access for emergency vehicles and suggested the organising committee review arrangements for future events.

## 4. District / County Councillor Report

Local Government Reorganisation - Districts have submitted their preferred models ranging from 1, 2 or 3 unitary options. Public consultations will take place with government ministers making a decision in spring 2026. Devolution - election of a Mayor in spring 2026 and a 'shadow authority' will operate until 2028, when the new approved structure will commence.

Local Plan - now out to public consultation, closing date 15th December.

## 5. Parish Councillor Reports

- a) KH reiterated the issue of dog fouling in the cemetery and closed churchyard. Signage is on order requesting dogs remain on leads.

b) AB reported back on a meeting attended hosted by Breckland District Council primarily regarding the Local Plan and Devolution.

## **6. Financial Matters**

a) October Bank Reconciliation approved.

b) Payments for November 2025 approved.

c) Discussion of 2026/7 draft budget and precept took place. Option 3 agreed.

## **7. Planning**

a) Inn on the Green appeal has been refused.

## **8. Amenities**

a) Grounds Maintenance - draft tender discussed. The additional cost of the cuts to the cricket pitch will be added to Cricket Club invoice. Three tenders to be sought.

b) Closed Churchyard - request from PCC to repair the gate at the rear of the churchyard.

c) Cemetery - 'Dogs on Leads' sign to be purchased and displayed.

d) Allotments - annual bills sent out.

e) Play Area - annual inspection to be arranged.

f) Defibrillator - KH clarified that the defibrillator is only unavailable when it is physically removed.

g) Street Lights - AB reported tree growth around some lights need attention.

h) Community Car Scheme - nothing to report.

## **8. Correspondence.**

East Anglian Air Ambulance Service has requested a donation. Donation of £100 agreed.

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

## 200 Club Lucky Winners

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

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# Dates For Your Diary

## December 2025

Thurs 4th	<i>Rapunzel</i> , Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri 5th	<i>Rapunzel</i> , Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat 6th	<i>Rapunzel</i> , Village Hall, 2pm & 7:30pm
Tues 9th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Weds 10th	Good Companions, Village Hall, 12 noon
Mon 22nd	Carols around the Tree, Market Cross, 6pm

## January 2026

1st	Hair of the Dog Walk, Market Cross, 11am
13th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm

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

Contributions for the February 2026 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Wednesday 21st January to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane (308427) or by email to [editor@newbucknews.co.uk](mailto:editor@newbucknews.co.uk).

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