

New Buckenham Parish News

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February 2026



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New Buckenham Parish News

February 2026

Defibrillator

New Buckenham has had a defibrillator in the village for over two years now. For those who are new to the village, it is mounted on the wall just inside the entrance to the King's Head Public House. Over the last two years, it has been removed from its cabinet on six occasions but, thankfully, has never been used.

The pads inside are both adult and paediatric pads and have recently been renewed. We have a band of volunteers, led by Sue Britton, who make regular checks to ensure that there are no issues with the equipment. Thank you very much, everyone.

It is probably helpful just to recap on how to access and use the defibrillator. If you make a 999 call and the defibrillator is required, you will be given a code to unlock the cabinet to remove it. If it becomes apparent that it does need to be used, the defibrillator itself will talk you through the actions which need to be taken and the 999 operative will remain on the line until the ambulance arrives.

I hope this information will be useful but will, hopefully, never be needed. Do please contact me if you require any further details.

Karen Hobley (on behalf of the Parish Council)

01953 860529 / karenhobley@hotmail.com

Sponsor the Parish News

We are very grateful to New Buckenham Cricket Club for sponsoring 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.

Parish News Committee

Ruth Hamerton

Sadly Ruth passed away peacefully on Saturday 10th January in De Lucy House, Diss in her 103rd year. She came to New Buckenham over 40 years ago as the wife of Dr Tony Hamerton. They lived in Ham House on Boosey's Walk and she was most industrious. We well remember she and Tony coming to the Forge for drinks and always bring the kneelers for the church plus needles and thread. She was also rather partial to a gin and martini.



Ruth obviously did something right to see her 102nd birthday although her last few years did see a deterioration in mental capacity. We have to salute the efforts of Tony and Carolyn Hamerton to look after and support Ruth in her last years with the assistance of De Lucy in Diss. And our thoughts also go to her sons Paul and Jonathan. Ruth loved her 30 years living in New Buckenham and will be greatly missed.

Details for Ruth's Thanksgiving on Friday 6th February as follows:

- 11:30: Short Committal (immediate family only) at Earlham Crematorium.
- 14:00: Service of Thanksgiving at St Martin's Church, New Buckenham, NR16 2AT

Following the service there will be refreshments.

Jimps

Is it too late to talk about “Rapunzel?” Oh no it isn’t!

Every year, Christmas and New Year celebrations seem to go by very quickly and we are soon in the cold dark days of January. However it is lovely to look back to the beginning of the festive season which was, as ever, marked by the Players’ Christmas Production – the excellent ‘Rapunzel’.

We were treated to a wonderful performance from the cast well supported by the backstage crew and front of house team. Rapunzel was fast-moving with fun, music, interaction with the audience and a script which was delivered with aplomb. As ever, the costumes and scenery were excellent and the changes of scenery were executed incredibly efficiently. The Village Hall’s new lighting system enhanced the performance, as did the music and sound effects. I have been careful not to mention any individuals because, *“Darlings, you were all wonderful!”*

I know how many hours of work are put in by everyone both on the stage and behind the scenes for months before the actual performance and also by the chaperones who have to be in place these days. Thank you to everyone involved – only ten months to the next Christmas Production. Oh yes it is!

Karen Hobley

News from the Pews

The beginning of the year is always a little quiet at St Martin's after the activity of Christmas, so there is not much news to impart, but looking back at...

Christmas: Village & Vestry take charge of decorating the church for Christmas and it looked splendid, as ever – so thank you to V&V! It was wonderful to welcome so many at our Carol Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning service – thank you for coming! Thank you, too, to Fiona Gallimore for organising Carols around the Tree; it was a magical evening and start to Christmas week.

Looking forward to the next few months...

Easter: is at the beginning of April this year, with Palm Sunday on 29th March, which is celebrated at New Buckenham with all the Parishes in the Benefice. Good Friday is on the 3rd and as last year, we hope to have a service that day. The Lily Remembrance will be on Saturday, 4th (and we will deliver leaflets in March, if you would like a lily to remember loved ones), and on Easter Day on Sunday there will be Holy Communion.

Lent: Before we celebrate Easter, however, there will be Lent courses, starting on 26th February. Plans are still being drawn up by Rev. Sarah and we will put a notice on our noticeboard about the format and where they are, once finalised.

Book Stall: As ever, don't forget that you can visit the book stall when the Church is open. There is a wide variety of novels to choose from, to help wile away the cold days and nights of winter! Novels are very popular, but biographies, autobiographies and factual books not so much, so we would politely ask that you donate these to a charity shop.

Food Bank: Together with King's Stores we have a collection point for the Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity in leaving donations.

Church Opening: The church is open every day, from about 9:30am until dusk. As well as visiting the book stall, it is a peaceful space to

spend some time (albeit that at this time of year, it is somewhat chilly!).

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

For any queries do contact me.

Louise Casson (Churchwarden)

01953 860191

St Martin's Services: February 2026

Sun 1st	10am	Candlemass Group Service at St Mary's, Eccles Rev Sarah Walsh	
Sun 8th	4:30pm	Choral Evensong Rev Sarah Walsh	2nd Sunday before Lent
Sun 15th	11am	Morning Prayer Alan Barker AWA	Sunday next before Lent
Weds 18th	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service at All Saints, Old Buckenham Rev Sarah & Rev Canon Lorraine Summers	
Sun 22nd	11am	Holy Communion Rev Canon Lorraine Summers	1st Sunday of Lent

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

Carols Around The Tree

I would like to thank everyone who came to sing around the tree on the 22nd December.

We had perfect conditions, lovely food, hot chocolate, mulled wine all made possible through your kind donations.

A special thank you to those who donated but knew they wouldn't be available to join us and to everyone who made it all possible. To top it all, we were able to raise £250 for the local children's charity Nelson's Journey.

Fi Gallimore

High Bailiffs Trust

On behalf of the High Bailiff's Trust I would like to thank the Cricket Club for its generous donation this month. I understand that other village societies have also benefitted. This was quite a surprise and at a time when everything is getting so expensive it is extremely welcome.

Thanks again and good luck to you this season.

Jimpy Casson

Chairman

Good Companions

The last meeting of 2025 was the Christmas lunch and was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th December. Seventeen members attended and enjoyed a three-course lunch provided by Anglia Catering. We were entertained by Susan Jayne and Father Christmas popped in to see us and find out if anyone was on the naughty list!

The next meeting will be held at 2:30pm on 19th February in the Village Hall. This will be the first meeting of 2026, as we don't meet in January.

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

Christine Wilby



Village & Vestry

FORTH COMING EVENTS



Coffee Morning



Saturday 21st March (10.30am)

Fresh coffee/tea and cake £3.50



The Cantorelli Choir

from West Yorkshire performing for us on

Saturday 18th April 7.30pm

More information to follow



St. Martin's Church New Buckenham

We look forward to welcoming you!



New Buckenham Art Exhibition 2026

Opening night: Friday 3rd April, 7:30pm

General admission: Saturday 4th, Sunday 5th, Monday 6th April, 11am-4:30pm

We are well underway for a good exhibition this Easter so I hope you will be able to support this popular event and save a space in your diary. Entries will be closed the on the 26th January and then the serious work commences!

I have included the Stewarding Rota for last year for you so that you can check where you were stewarding last year. Please can you confirm with Clive if you are able to do the same days and times as last year. Please text him on his mobile (07944726186) or phone 01953 860572. We would be very pleased of any new helpers, so please get in touch with Clive.

Our small café with coffee, tea and cakes is so appreciated by everyone who visits or stewards. We do need cakes for this, so if you could bake a cake that would be great. They can be taken to the Village Hall on Saturday 4th or Sunday 5th April for 11am. More details from Fi Gallimore (page 13).

Everyone likes a raffle, and we usually have some really great prizes and of course this does bring in quite a bit of money for the proceeds of the exhibition, which is our Church and Village Hall. If you would like to donate a prize please bring it to Mill House or you can leave it in the Garage Office if there is no one at home.

There will be some of you that have not seen our Art Exhibition. It has been going for over 25 years and displays some 400 exhibits from watercolours to oil paintings, drawing, collage and some 3D work. There are professional artists and hobby painters showing great ideas and quality. Make sure you tell your friends and family to come and enjoy a visit this Easter break.

Clive Rush

Art Exhibition Committee

Last Year's Helpers' Rota:

		SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
11:00am to 12:30pm	S	Mary Dowson	Gerry Gildersleeve	Andrea Halfacree
	S	Charles Wolfe	Geoff Gildersleeve	John Halfacree
	A	Carolyn Hupton	Nancy Robertson	Mary Manning
	A	Katie Wyatt-Hupton	Vivienne Walker	Barbara Cattermole
12:30pm to 2:30pm	S	Lynn Carter	Hazel Rush	Ed Dowling
	S	Karen Hobley	Ed Dowling	Audrey Dowling
	A	Gill Goodwin	Ron Thompson	Denise Smolkovic
	A	Alan Dynes	Margaret Ward	Kruno Smolkovic
2:30pm to 4:30pm	S	Richard Anderson	Clive Rush	Ann Gascoyne
	S	Charles Wolfe	Gill Goodwin	Karen Hobley
	A	Dawn Eagling	Audrey Dowling	Meryl St John Cooper
	A	Tom Eagling	Ed Dowling	Robert St John Cooper
11:00am to 2:00pm (tea / coffee)	R	Lynda Kerr	Sue Britton	Juliet Fulford
	R	Stevie Hobley	Janet Ovens	Andrew Bingham
2:00pm to 4:30pm (tea / coffee)	R	Jackie Bishop-Aldous	Linda Bryan	Alice Cattermole
	R	Sue Cattermole	Cathy Steele	Andrea Halfacree
S – Sales A – Admission R – Refreshments				

Art Exhibition: Hall Set-up

As always any help setting up the display boards on the Thursday evening (2nd April) from 6:00pm would be very much appreciated. They are quite heavy but many hands make light work!

Also any help on the Monday afternoon from approximately 4:30pm onwards dismantling the event and returning the Hall to normal would be great as well.

Jon Halfacree

Art Exhibition Committee

New Buckenham Cricket Club

Looking back to 2025 proved to be a “challenging” season competing at the highest level we have ever been in, unfortunately despite some really outstanding performances both individually and as a team we did not do quite enough to remain in the division and will be going back to where we were in 2024.

Going into 2026 already the winter nets are already in full swing and we have welcomed some new players into the club and the team are looking forward to the new season with relish.

Again this year the club will be running the All Stars programme for children to get involved with Cricket in a fun and friendly environment and the donation from the August Fete has been ring fenced to facilitate this.

2025 was an expensive year for the club, as along with the normal club outgoings we had several “larger” expenses, most notable the new container which was needed to replace the old one which had virtually rusted away and had long since ceased to be water and rodent proof (think everyone will agree that the replacement is far more sightly). We also replaced the fencing that protects the square and refurbished the sight screens (that were kindly donated by another team who were upgrading). We also had to purchase a fill in small roller mid season as our large roller now needs major work for the coming season and will no doubt be a costly repair.

Our main source of income is the Fireworks event and last year’s turned out to be our most financially successful ever to date and allowed us to finish 2025 in the black despite record expenses. We also had enough surplus to make donations to the Good Companions, High Bailiffs Trust, Winter Warmer association and the Parish News.

However we recognise that the popularity of the event brought several issues – most notably the excess traffic and parking problems and would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused. Looking forward to the 2026 display we will be having a planning meeting in June/July to review 2025 and see how we can improve and would welcome both positive ideas and input and also anyone who might want to give us a hand on the night to help manage the event better –

details of the meeting will be advised nearer the time. A very big thank you to everyone in the village and beyond who contributed to the event as apart from the parking we had some very positive comments on the quality and value for money etc. of the display – and special thanks to Tom and Phil Anderson for the magnificent and well marshalled Bonfire.

Looking forward to a successful year both on and off the pitch!

Jon Halfacree

New Buckenham Cricket Club Treasurer

jonhalfacree@btinternet.com

Cakes for the Art Exhibition

I've got the wonderful job of drumming up cakes for the art exhibition again this year. Your delicious cakes enable the exhibition to have its own café which raises money that is put back into the village! If you would like to donate but cant bake or your just too busy, we would be very happy with a purchased cake.

Please contact me if you would like to donate. Very many thanks.

Fi Gallimore

07981 107703

Gardening Group: Open Gardens and Village Show 2026

Hello again from us at the Gardening Group and a Happy New Year to everyone.

This year, we are holding another Open Gardens event on Sunday 28th June. We already have some gardens, but we need more. It is a great social occasion with many visitors and we raise money to subsidise the Village Show and it allows us to donate to garden orientated charities. We have been able to support the Children's garden at the Village Hall and Old Buckenham High School and the Primary School with significant donations. If you have entered before or just thought about entering, please give me a call.

In addition there are seventeen benches in and around the village and Dr Mandy had the brilliant idea in 2024 that some or all of them are decorated for Open Gardens. It was so successful that we are running the Decorated Bench competition again this year. Benches are to be decorated in the week preceding the 28th of June and then the Open Gardens visitors will be provided with a form to vote for their favourite. More from Mandy in later Parish News issues.

If you do not wish to open your garden or decorate a bench you can assist by volunteering. We need cakes and lots of them (including vegan and vegetarian), car park attendants, plant stall holders, and helpers to serve refreshments. We try to have as many volunteers as possible, so everyone gets a chance to visit the gardens during the afternoon.

Refreshments are served from 12:30pm with tickets being sold from 1:00pm until 5:00pm and gardens closing at 6:00pm, still at the old price of £5.00 with children under fourteen free. Let your friends and families know.

Which brings us to the Village Show, which this year is being held on Saturday 18th July. We will be needing entries and cakes for refreshments as well. We are extending the time for you to get your entry forms to Karen prior to the show until Friday 7:00pm. This is so that she can prepare the exhibitor cards for each of your entries. You

will find the entry form on the back page of the schedule or download one from newbuckenhams.net. The schedules are being prepared and will be distributed during March.

We do ask, please, that the proper forms are used, and you identify which classes you are entering as this helps at a time when we are at our busiest on the Saturday morning.

I will write again with more details as we approach each event. This is going to be a good year for Open Gardens and Village Show entries as they have all had a good watering this winter.

Jimps

01953 860191

Gardening Group: Au Revoir

In 2024, we welcomed Ian Ludbrook back to the Gardening Group. We worked out that he left the village to live in Fornsett St Peter about 17 years ago having been instrumental in the workings of the Group and singlehandedly entered New Buckenham into the Anglia in Bloom competition where we won Best New Village (pop.<600).

Now we sadly must wish him au revoir as he is going to be concentrating on a new project and some essential family time. Ian has been a source of innovative ideas and we shall miss him. We wish both him and Lolita all the best for the future.

Gardening Group

New Buckenham Parish Council

Summary of Draft Minutes: January 2026

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Don Crossman (DC), Steve Highton (SH), Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk and no members of the public.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the December meeting approved.

2. Matters arising

a) Notices on cars asking for more considerate parking have been approved by the police.

NBPC will monitor distribution.

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

3. Public Participation

None.

4. District / County Councillor Report

None.

5. Parish Councillor Reports

a) KH reported that Devolution and Local Government reform are issues on local news at the moment. NBPC has no official update.

6. Financial Matters

a) December Bank Reconciliation approved.

b) Payments for January 2026 approved.

7. Planning

a) No new planning applications.

b) Grazing Rights: NBPC has requested that in future availability of grazing rights should be advertised in a more transparent way to enable villagers to apply for them

8. Amenities

- a) Grounds Maintenance: responses to quotes were considered. The contract was awarded to Broadland Tree Services for 3 years. Approved by all.
- b) Closed Churchyard: 'Dogs on Leads', 'no fouling' signs to be displayed on both gates.
- c) Cemetery: 'Dogs on Leads' sign to be displayed.
- d) Allotments: £900 water bill paid, but to be investigated - PM.
- e) Play Area: discussion took place regarding the extension of the Play Area car park. Cllrs concluded it was rarely full therefore it will not be pursued at this time.
- f) Defibrillator: nothing to report.
- g) Street Lights: awaiting quote from BTS for clearing crown growth around some lights.
- h) Community Car Scheme: DBS application process has been passed to the CCS coordinator.

9. Correspondence.

Cllrs considered a donation request from 'Brave Futures'. No donation approved.

Cllrs requested that the donation policy be reviewed to clarify criteria for future grants.

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.

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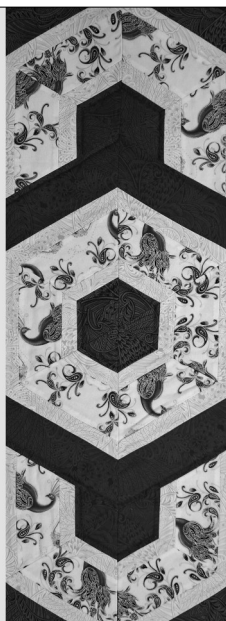
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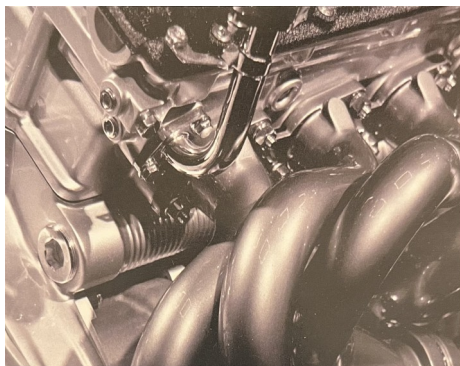
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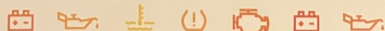
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Dates For Your Diary

February 2026

Tues 10th	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thurs 19th	Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm

March 2026

Sat 21st	Village & Vestry Coffee Morning, St Martin's, 10:30am
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The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley
07469 715517 ~ bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk

Contributions for the March 2026 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Sunday 22nd February to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane (308427) or by email to editor@newbucknews.co.uk.

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