

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a large tree with yellowing leaves on the left, a stream flowing through the center, and a wooden bench in the foreground. The ground is covered in fallen yellow and orange leaves. In the background, a white building with a dark roof is visible.

# ***Bucknell Newsletter***

including Bedstone  
and Brampton Bryan

Autumn 2016  
No: 12



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# ***Bucknell Newsletter***

## **Autumn 2016**

### **From the editor**

Each time I reach this stage of compiling the newsletter, I seem to be apologising for its late running. In defence of this situation, it's still autumn and there are still leaves on the trees, but I'm very conscious that Christmas is just around the corner. I am very grateful to all of the people and companies that have advertised again, or are advertising for the first time. The number of advertisers is increasing and requests for colour are growing too, which really helps brightens up the newsletter. Without advertising, the production costs of the newsletter would not be met, so please support our local businesses whenever you can. May I also thank all those people who help with delivering the newsletter and assist with accounting and editorial issues. The newsletter is a truly voluntary project.

In this edition, there's an article about people's views concerning the future of the Parish of Bedstone and Bucknell, which have been analysed and summarised following the recent community survey. These, plus further opportunities to have your say, will help with planning how our villages develop in the coming years. I think you'll agree, it's important that we all keep abreast of how the Parish Plan develops, for our own sakes and for future generations. (It was gratifying to see that people completing the survey felt that the Bucknell Newsletter helps keep them in the picture about what goes on locally.)

I'm always looking out for leads for articles about local people who have interesting stories to tell, such as Andy Gouch and William Watkins featured in this edition. If you have any suggestions, please do contact me. Finally, if you'd like to assist with the editorial or production of the newsletter, *I could really do with help*. Between us, I might not then have to keep apologising for late running of the Bucknell Newsletter!

*John Warner, Editor, 01547 530910, warnerj47@sky.com*

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# What's Happening

## Habitats

11 November to 7 January 2017 at The Courtyard, Hereford: Exhibition by Alloy Jewellers. Open during theatre times.

## Winter Shopping Event

Aardvark Winter Shopping Event at The Bookery, Manor Farm, Brampton Bryan - with live music on Saturday 19 November, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Discounts and offers throughout the shop for one day only!

## Flicks in the Sticks

'Bridge of Spies' (12A), legal thriller with Tom Hanks, at the Village Hall, Aston on Clun, Saturday 19 November. (01588 660545)



## Parish Plan - Open Meeting

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council invite you to an Open Meeting, Tuesday 22 November at 7.30pm at Bucknell Memorial Hall. Your chance to have a say before the final version is produced.

The draft plan can be seen on: [www.bedstoneandbucknell.org](http://www.bedstoneandbucknell.org)

For those without internet access, a few copies have been left in Bucknell Church and Bedstone Church. Please let me know if they run out - Andrew Rolfe (530944)

## Advent Fayre

St Mary's Primary School, Thursday 24 November, 4.30pm, Christmas hamper raffle and refreshments.

## Live Music



On Saturday 26 November at 7.30pm, Jack Brett and Blue Moon are supporting The Jigantics at the South Shropshire Blues Club at the Ludlow Brewery. Tickets from: [www.southshropshirebluesclub.co.uk](http://www.southshropshirebluesclub.co.uk)

## Sunday Evening Chill

Relax at The Red Lion, Knighton, on Sunday 27 November at 7.30pm with local bands and artists. (01547 428080)

## Art at The Colloquy

Christmas Exhibition, The Colloquy, Lyonshall, HR5 3JA, 29 November (6.30-9.30pm) and 30 November (10.30am-9pm). Ceramics, jewellery, prints, paintings, pottery, sculpture, textiles and willow baskets. (01568 770177)

## Artists and Makers

Perfect Christmas presents from local makers at Presteigne Assembly Rooms on 1 December (4.00-7.00pm), 2 December (11.00am-8.00pm) and 3 December (10.00am-4.00pm).

## Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre

Ludlow Castle hosts the Medieval Christmas Fayre 26-27 November from 10.00am each day. Entertainment, stalls, food and drinks. Tickets £11.00 adult, £5.50 child (£1.00 cheaper on Sunday).



## Bedstone College Christmas Fayre

Saturday 3 December, 3.00-5.00pm. Stalls, competitions, entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies. (530961)

## Annual Festive Concert

The Annual Festive Concert, Saturday 3 December at Bucknell Memorial Hall, 7.30pm when the Builth Wells Male Voice Choir will be performing. Tickets: £7.00, (including light refreshments) and details from: Christine Price (530249) or Dorothy Edwards (530252). *"Do come along for a really great night's entertainment."*

**The Nutcracker**

Screening of a Royal Opera House live ballet performance of The Nutcracker at the Assembly Rooms, Ludlow, on Thursday 8 December at 7.15pm. (01584 878141)

**Bedstone College**

End of term, 8 December

**Hereford Christmas Arts Market**

(Organised by Brightstripe) 10 December 9.00am-5.00pm at High Town, Hereford. Affordable street market for unique hand-made work. Admission free.

**Aardvark Christmas Fair**

Sunday 11 December, 10.00am - 3.00pm  
Craft stalls, bric-a-brac and brocante. Live music, complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. Free entry and parking.

**School Christmas Carol Service**

St Mary's Primary School Christmas Service at St Mary's Church, Monday 12 December at 6.30pm - all welcome.

**St Mary's Primary School**

End of term, 16 December

**Country and Blues Night**

The Poobahs and Blue Moon are playing on Saturday 17 December at Chapel Lawn Village Hall, doors open at 7.00pm. Bar with Real Ale, filled roles and snacks. Tickets £8.00 in advance from: jack-brett@live.co.uk or 0782 5133690 and also from Christine: 01547 530258. Tickets on the night £10.00.

**Pantomime**

'Dick Whittington' (and his cat) at the Regal Tenbury Wells, 19-31 December. Tickets from £10.00 (01584 811442)

<b>Just for Fun</b>
---------------------

Thank you to the lady in Bucknell who provided the following story and who wished to remain anonymous:

***An elderly couple's visit to McDonald's***

An elderly man ordered a single hamburger, single fries, and a drink. Sitting down at a table, the man unwrapped the hamburger and carefully cut it in two, passing one half to his wife. He then counted the fries, divided them equally into two piles and gave one pile to his wife. He took a sip from the drink, passed the cup to his wife who also took a sip, then set the cup down between them.

As he began to eat his small meal, the people around them kept looking at them and whispered amongst themselves.

You could tell that they were thinking the couple were so poor that they could only afford one meal between them.

As the old man was eating his fries, a young man walked over to their table, politely offering to buy them another meal. The old man said that they were fine, and were used to sharing everything.

The other customers noticed that the old lady hadn't eaten a bite, she just sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally took turns at sipping the drink.

Again, the young man went over to them and begged them to let him buy them another meal. This time it was the woman who said, "No thank you, we're used to sharing everything."

As the old man finished eating and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man went over to the little old lady who was yet to eat a single bite of food. "What is it you're waiting for?", he asked her, and she replied, "THE TEETH"



## First World War Remembered

Fifth in a series of tributes marking the deaths of men from Bucknell who lost their lives during the First World War.

### **Clifford Edwards, Private, 5th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry**

Killed on 30 August 1916 and buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval. This is where the South African War Memorial is situated. The woods were captured by the South Africans following heavy fighting in July and August 1916 as part of the Somme offensive.

Clifford was the son of William and Sarah Edwards. He was born in 1896 and lived in Mercelles Cottage. His father was a cattleman on a farm (1901 census).

The official history of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) records that the 5th Battalion was in trenches in Delville Wood from 28–30 August 1916. The weather was bad with incessant rain, so holding the line was an onerous task.

The trees provided no protection from shelling with the result that during this short period eight other ranks were killed, 32 were wounded and four were reported missing.

### **William F. Jones Private 7th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry**

Killed in action on 14 July 1916. His name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. His was one of the bodies never recovered from the fighting of the Battle of the Somme.

William Frank Jones was born in Bucknell in 1894 and was one of two sons of Thomas Jones, a widower who was a gardener. The second son Geoffrey was killed in 1917. In 1901, the family lived in Tan House in Chapel Lawn Road - near to the present Tan House.

On 14 July 1916, the KSLI 7th Battalion were involved in The Battle of Bazentin Ridge, part of the Somme offensive. Although this particular attack was considered a success (the British Division eventually captured the ridge), it was a disaster for the 7th Battalion. The official history records that when the Battalion went over the top at 3.30 am on 14 July they found that the wire was uncut 600 yards from the enemy trench. "Not a man of the first wave succeeded in getting through the wire". The second wave followed close on the first and were an easy target for the enemy. Eventually the remnants of the attack fell back to the shelter of a sunken road. They then found that their Colonel and two privates had been captured. Survivors of the Battalion managed to cut through the wire and rescued the Colonel.

Eight officers and 163 other ranks were killed and 294 were wounded.

Read more about the Bucknell soldiers killed in both World Wars on the parish website:

[www.bedstoneandbucknell.org](http://www.bedstoneandbucknell.org)

See: 'Bucknell/Lest We Forget'

*Margaret Hay Campbell*



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## General News and Views

### **Bucknell Memorial Hall 100 Club Raffle**

Tickets cost £10.00 per year for your chance to win £25.00, £15.00 or £10.00 each month. Tickets available from committee members: Nicky Edwards; Roger Bates; Dorothy Edwards; Eddie Price; Christine Price or Belmont Garage (Green's).

### **Environment Agency: Crayfish deaths in the River Redlake**

Dead white-clawed crayfish have been seen in the River Redlake.

The Environment Agency is investigating the deaths of our rare protected native white-clawed crayfish in three locations across the Severn and Wye river catchments. It is expected to be confirmed as Crayfish Plague, which is very infectious for crayfish.

Your help is needed to limit the risk of future deaths by taking simple bio-security steps.

White-clawed crayfish look like miniature lobsters, they hide away under rocks and logs during the day, and emerge during the night to eat. They are the UK's largest freshwater invertebrate and the few remaining populations are very vulnerable to this disease and face local extinction.

Crayfish Plague is a species-specific disease and has no implications for human or other animal health. White-clawed crayfish maybe infected, but apparently healthy, and continue to die for several weeks, therefore an outbreak of Crayfish Plague can last for several weeks. The disease can be transferred to white-clawed crayfish via water and mud on damp clothes, footwear, bike tyres,

fishing or boating equipment, or any machinery. The Crayfish Plague pathogens can live for 22 days on damp clothes or equipment. We're asking people to stay out of the Redlake. If, however, you're using equipment in the river, please follow these steps:

- Clean off any mud or vegetation and remove any standing water.
- Either thoroughly dry the equipment, preferably in sunlight making sure all nooks and crannies are dry, or treat with a disinfectant capable of killing fungal spores.
- If you, or your dog, goes into the river, do not go into another water-course on the same day.

If you see dead crayfish, please call:

0800 80 70 60

Please do not handle or remove live or dead crayfish; it is illegal to do this without a licence.

Thank you for your help in limiting the deaths of this rare native species.

### **Bucknell War Memorial Fund**

The Big Breakfast on Saturday 1 October at Bucknell Memorial Hall was manic; an experience not to be repeated unless we have better facilities. We had so many people turn up on the door. On the night before the event there were only 39 tickets sold so it was a shock to find so many people wanting breakfast. I would like to thank every one who donated food, gave donations of money and my team of volunteers who worked so hard. What would we do without them? May I also apologise to the customers that had to wait so long for their breakfast; it was

beyond my control trying to cook for so many with one oven and a camping stove. We'll do better next time, but we did make £460.10. A big thank you to the villagers, families and friends who came along. Since we started fund raising in April 2016 we've reach a total of £2,249.45 for the Bucknell War Memorial Fund. The total includes donations from local businesses and villagers. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

#### **High Sheriff Volunteer Reception**

On 10 September and along with other Shropshire volunteers, Derek and I were invited to a reception given by the High Sheriff at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford. There were about 200 volunteers there and Christine Holmes, High Sheriff, and her husband greeted everyone of them personally. She mentioned Bucknell in her welcoming speech and said that the towns and remote villages of Shropshire would not survive without an army of volunteers. We were able to talk with two ladies from The Severn Hospice; they have 1,100 volunteers at present. We had a pleasant afternoon chatting and drinking tea.

*Sylvia Meredith*

*Chair, Bucknell War Memorial Fund*

Look out for the **Memory Christmas Tree** in December.

#### **Lighten up your home to avoid becoming a victim of burglary**



It's that time of year again when the dark nights are upon us. A simple method of leaving a light on in your home can significantly reduce the chance of being burgled especially at this time of year when there

is generally a peak in house burglaries. Most house break-ins are opportunistic, so don't give thieves an opportunity.

The 'Lighten up' top tips are:

- a well-lit home gives the impression someone is in
- use timer switches to turn lamps on when you are out
- save energy and money with low-energy light bulbs
- lock windows and doors and keep gates and side entrances well secured
- invest in external lighting, such as PIR (passive infrared sensor) lights to illuminate outbuildings and yards (battery operated ones can be purchased for under £20 on Amazon).

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### Small price rise

The Pop-In Café at St Mary's Church, Bucknell, continues to be as popular as ever and offers drinks and cake at very reasonable prices. Real coffee is served in cafetieres (other drinks are available) and costs £1.00 per person and a slice of delicious cake is now charged separately at 50p. I think you'll agree that this modest price increase is fully justified. If you've still not visited on a Wednesday morning (10.30am until 12.00pm), why not call in? You'll be in great company.



### Telling time - the Bucknell way

Telling Time Lesson One: The hands of the St Mary's Church clock are running four hours behind and the bell is more or less on time. So, if the big hand is on 12 and the little hand is on 11, then it's 3.00am/pm and the three rings of the bell mean that it's 3.03am/pm. Confused? Best check your watch, mobile or tablet!



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### Parish Plan Review 2016

Some of you may remember that in the last newsletter (Summer No 11), I mentioned that the first impressions of the survey analysis had been reported to the Parish Council meeting on 5 July. It will be up to the Parish Council to consider the data in the plan when they make decisions in future.

These first impressions were later posted in full on the Bedstone and Bucknell website, also they were pinned to notice boards. For those of you who may have missed these, the following are some of the 'headlines' in these first impressions.

- About three quarters of respondents wanted less than 30 new houses built in Bucknell during the next ten years. This was also a key concern of many of the 76 people who attended the Parish Assembly on 11 May.
- Speeding and HGVs through the villages were top safety issues.
- Over three quarters felt something should be done to improve pedestrian safety on the narrow road with no footpath, between St Mary's Primary School and the Post Office.
- Nearly everybody favoured protecting public trees and the open fields in the heart of Bucknell. They also favoured a zero tolerance to litter and dog fouling.
- Over two thirds favoured a bus shelter being provided near to Bucknell Railway Station.
- The shop, Post Office, butcher, motor repair workshop, filling station/newsagent, pubs and

primary school were all important to over 90%, with the school topping the poll at nearly 100%. A lot of written comments were about ways to help improve the shop.

- More than three quarters agree that Bucknell Memorial Hall needs to be improved, but support was evenly split between those who would like further improvements to the existing hall and those who would like a new village hall at Daffodil Lane.
- The Bucknell Newsletter and notice boards were the most regular sources for keeping up with local news and events.

As promised, a meeting was held for young people, and soundings were also taken from children attending St Mary's Primary School.

The easy things requested included a basketball/netball hoop and straw bales (during the summer holidays) at Daffodil Lane. Other local activities in the summer holidays would be appreciated, (e.g. children's football tournaments). A regular Youth Club held in the Memorial Hall was considered a popular idea that would be well supported.

More varied items of play equipment in the playgrounds would make them more attractive, though they are appreciated and used now.

Getting to more expensive ideas, a tennis court would be popular with the young (and old?), and could also function as a multi purpose court. The other key idea put forward by some of the boys was for 'dirt jumps' at Daffodil Lane. If anybody would be prepared to help them realise

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their ambition for this, please contact Aiden or Jamie, or I'll pass it on if you contact me.

The good news is that the general feeling among the young people is that: they all get on well together; like living here; keep in contact with their friends; like the Daffodil Lane recreation area and the woodlands around the villages for both walking and mountain biking; and like events in the Memorial Hall and St Mary's Church. They also enjoy all general events in the village, such as the recent car boot sale, the tractor run, and the Bucknell Village Show.

The Parish Plan Review Group is still short of a representative from Bedstone, so please contact me if you would like to take on that role. However, as you may read elsewhere in the newsletter, one of our group, Duncan Cullimore, has now become a Parish Councillor, so is taking on the important liaison role between the two groups. The Parish Plan Review is intended to reflect the wishes of the residents, but actions will follow only if it is supported by the Parish Council, Shropshire Council, voluntary groups and local residents.

We are on schedule to produce our plan before Christmas.

*Andrew Rolfe (530944)  
arolfe@waitrose.com*





*Other Christmas specials include;*

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## Hello again from The Vicarage



Annie B and Red

All craziness this summer just past. Having thought that August would be quiet with a lot of people away on their holidays, we set up a series of specials in the Benefice to get those who were around, together. Well, a lot of people were away, but it was an action packed time for the little Vicar! Much of the action was fun and linked to community summer events. But rather more action than I've ever had before in over 30 years of ministry was the run of funerals. As a result, my hoped for afternoons of gentle ambling around exploring in a 'summerly' way in order to bump into people and chat didn't come to fruition - not so far anyway.

We've had some great summer events. These were well attended with people travelling to each other's churches a bit more than usual. There were several weddings and christenings too, plus a few unashamedly summer antics and loads of opportunities for folk to get together. I've tried to get round to the main festivities in my seven parishes, such as the wakes and shows, though I had to miss Stowe Duck Race because we had a lovely wedding that exactly coincided.

As I write, I've just returned from our Benefice's Vision Day, held in Bedstone Village Hall. It was a really positive gathering with a good number joining us. There are many prompts for this, but the bottom-line aim is to be able to put some changes into place in our worship structure from January 2017. Not only will January mark the end of my first year here, during which I promised I would not make changes while I got to see how things work and who is out there, but also,

as well as losing one of our Lay Readers before I took up post, our wonderful Reader, Jonathan, is taking a six-month sabbatical beginning in January, so I'll be the only licensed minister in the Benefice. We have some brilliant folk who do help lead worship regularly, but they're stretched already. So I need to be able to get around to all the churches more often. However, Vision Days are not just about timing; that can be done as a purely paper exercise. The more important questions will be about listening to one another as we discuss what we actually do in our services and think about how we can provide a diet that scratches where people really itch. In the countryside we must try to welcome and embrace worshippers from all backgrounds, and with a whole range of preferences, as well as remain accessible to those with a great deal of experience - and total newcomers.

Meanwhile, school summer and half-term holidays are over and the round of Harvests is taking place. Harvest activities can be seen on our fields and hillsides and that most important round of country worship is when we celebrate "All is safely gathered in ..." I've been pleased to see many people joining us for Harvest. Once the round of Harvests was over, I had my 'summer' holiday! Phew! (...before Remembrance Day and then it's all downhill to the 'Big C' word.)

Red has been joining us for worship on many of the summer Sundays. He joins me in sending you Love and Prayers.

*Annie B*

Rev Annie Ballard

The Vicarage, Bucknell, SY7 0BA  
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(Please leave a message; I'll reply ASAP)



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## **School Report**

### **St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School**



Along with the intake of new children at the beginning of the autumn term at St Mary's Primary School, the school welcomed Mrs Claire Duffield as the latest addition to the staff. Mrs Duffield, who's from Melbourne, Australia, is teaching the children of Class 2. We wish her every success in her appointment.

As outlined in Jonathan Kemp's parish report elsewhere in the newsletter, St Mary's has recently had two very successful inspections. These are an acknowledgement of the excellent work carried out by staff in teaching the 45 local children who are currently on role.

#### **Busy schedule**

In addition to fine teaching, the school always has a full timetable of events taking place. This autumn term is no exception. A couple of weeks after the summer break, a reading workshop took place for Key Stage 1 pupils and they also made visits to Ludlow and Hampton Court castles. On 30 September a coffee morning was arranged by the Friends of St Mary's Primary School in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, which was very well attended by parents, friends and family members. A non-uniform day was also held when the School Council collected £1.00 from each child for the Macmillan funds.

#### **Open Day**

The school arranged an Open Day on 1 October - you may have seen banners around Bucknell advertising this event. Over 60 visitors were given escorted tours of the school and its grounds and saw

pupils taking part in a variety of different activities, including craft-making, science experiments and a cookery class. Visitors also heard children singing songs in French and Spanish and watched a recording of last term's production of 'Joseph' while enjoying refreshments in the school hall provided by the Friends of St Mary's volunteers.

#### **Fence painting**

Earlier this term, the Friends of St Mary's made a great job of painting the new wrought ironwork railings that have been installed outside the school entrance. For those of you who are not familiar with the railings, they consist of brightly coloured panels depicting local scenes and community and rural activities. The new section of ironwork was created skilfully by Roger Williams of Bishop's Castle.

#### **Cross Country**

On a bright sunny autumn afternoon on 4 October, all Key Stage 2 pupils were invited to take part in the Three Counties Junior Cross Country at Bedstone College. They joined over 400 runners from local schools to run a course set out in the grounds. Children who didn't take part lined the course and cheered on their classmates, especially Grace Phillips who came second in the Year 6 Girls category.

#### **More events to come**

- Football Match Bedstone College (10/11)
- KS2 Egyptian Workshop, Swansea (11/11)
- Craft Day; volunteers welcome (22/11)
- Advent Fayre; including Santa Claus and Christmas Hamper Raffle (24/11)
- Visit to Cinderella pantomime at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury (1/12)
- Christmas Service; mulled wine & mince pies, St Mary's Church - all welcome (12/12)
- Pupils' End-of-Term Disco (15/12)
- End of term (16/12)

## WI Keeping Busy



Although we had a break from our meetings during August, we were still very active. We provided teas at the Bucknell Show and thanks go to all the members who baked and made sandwiches and who bravely faced the elements on a truly shocking day. Despite the adverse weather, we quickly sold out and will be giving a donation to the Bucknell Show Committee.

Our September meeting took the form of a Card Workshop, which had some interesting results. The competition for a pop-up card was won by Iris Greaves with a card that she had made for her father at the age of seven.

At the end of September, we pulled out all the stops when we hosted and entertained the Clun Valley South Group of WIs. We arranged an American-themed evening at the Memorial Hall with the tables decorated with Stars and Stripes in true American style. Supper included popcorn nibbles, hot dogs, corn fritters and Waldorf salad. Hopesay WI provided apple pie and cream for dessert and ginger beer was chosen as the drink to accompany the meal. WI members entered into the spirit of the evening with fancy waistcoats, bowties and smart fancy hats; we even had Angie Smart dressed up as a sheriff to keep law and order.

The highlight of the American evening was the introduction of The Telfordaires Barbershop Group who come from Telford and the surrounding area. They were most professional and entertained us for an hour with a variety of old and new songs. Barbershop singing was a first for Bucknell, but everyone agreed that the group were excellent performers.

After the entertainment, the competition winners were announced, with three of our

Bucknell WI members doing us proud. Beryl Starr, our secretary, came first in the muffin competition. Fran Turnbull also came first in the patchwork potholder competition and Rita Barns took second place. Thank you Beryl, Fran and Rita for gaining enough points for the Bucknell WI to win the group competition cup for the very first time that anyone can remember.

At our October meeting, we were treated to a very accomplished flower demonstration by Jane Pugh from Bishop's Castle - who's otherwise known as 'The Singing Florist'. Jane is a keen competitor and a judge at the Shrewsbury Flower Show, and will be flying out to the Bahamas where she'll be a competitor at a prestigious international flower festival.

Jane demonstrated three arrangements: 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'; 'An Irish Love Song'; and 'My Wartime Basket'. Each arrangement was accompanied by an appropriate song that was beautifully sung by Jane and WI members joined in the choruses when Jane arranged her Wartime Basket display. At the end of the evening, the arrangements went into a draw and the lucky winners were: Rose Sharp; Dorothy Savage; Christine Price; Sue Percival and Jane Willis. Competition winners for their own small foliage arrangements were: Mildred Roberts; Wynn Billingsley and Joyce Wells.

The November meeting will be our AGM when we'll be treating ourselves to a fish and chips supper served by the committee.

In December, we have our Christmas celebrations and a party at The Hall, Bucknell, when we hope to arrange a Ceilidh.

2016 has been a good year for the Bucknell WI and we look forward to another successful and busy twelve-month programme in 2017.

*Christine Price, President*



A stylized illustration featuring a blue bird with a yellow beak and feet, perched on a green stem. The stem has several colorful flowers: a large blue one with a yellow center, a smaller yellow one, and a red one. Above the bird is a string of bunting flags in green, yellow, and red. The background is white.

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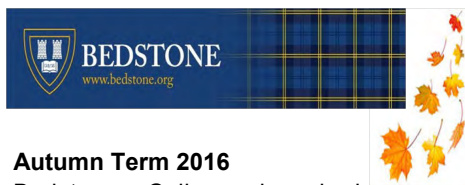


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### **Autumn Term 2016**

Bedstone College launched itself into another academic year after the relative quiet of the summer break, which yielded excellent A level and GCSE results for our senior students.

Day One of the autumn term saw the Junior School host an enthusiastic swimming gala against local opposition from St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell. It was a beautiful afternoon, a perfect opportunity to make use of the facilities at the college.

There has been so much activity for the juniors in the first few weeks, with 14 new children joining us this term. The children have been finding out the delights of 'Forest School', which last weekend culminated in its first overnight camp at Black Hall Farm. All 19 intrepid travellers returned unscathed on Saturday full of camp fire stories - proving that having fun can be the best way of learning.

Junior 1 also had an eventful day out last week with a trip to a local fire station. Well done to them for being so well behaved, yet so inquisitive. I think the officers deserved a well-earned rest after skilfully answering all the questions.

We had a superb day on 4 October when the autumn sun shone down on the 16 local schools competing at Bedstone in the Three Counties Junior Cross Country. A record turnout of almost 400 children raced through the grounds. They were rewarded with hot chocolate and cookies for their efforts. Thank you to everyone involved in making the day so enjoyable.

Bedstone's older students have also increased in numbers. 40 new students joined the Senior School in September to embark on a demanding term with plenty of hard work, interspersed with some excellent sporting success in both rugby and hockey.

It was a perfect autumn morning for our Open Day on 8 October. Over 50 visitors enjoyed the hands-on practicals in Chemistry, the 'crime scene' in the English lessons and some product testing in Design and Technology, giving prospective students an opportunity to experience the variety on offer at Bedstone College.

Last weekend (14–16 October), Fifth Form students in the district were invited to come and enjoy our 'Sixth Form Experience'. Students discovered what Sixth Form is all about and enjoyed attending the 'Senior Dining Club' and overnight boarding - as do many of our current Sixth Form students.

### **What's coming up**

This week, as I write, we've music and drama rehearsals in full swing for the Junior Harvest Festival on 18 October. This will be quickly followed by the Senior and Junior combined Inter-House Music Competition just before we break up for half term on 21 October.

There is plenty more music in the second half of the autumn term as we are very fortunate to have some marvellous musicians studying here, so a Music Scholar Showcase is planned for December (date to be confirmed).

The Annual Christmas Fayre is set to take place on Saturday 3 December between 3-5pm. There will be plenty of festive food, decorations, cards and lovely gifts to

purchase together with an opportunity to get involved in some of your own arts and craft. There will also be a Santa's Grotto.

Preparations are currently under way for next term's musical production of 'The Wizard of Oz', so our search is on for our bright new stars of 2017. One of those stars, Hugh Osborne-Brookes, will be starring at The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford in this year's pantomime 'Aladdin'. We wish him every success.

*Yvonne Strangwood, Receptionist  
Bedstone College*



### **Parishes' new responsibilities**

As you will have read in my previous articles, a key part of the Government's agenda over the last few years of austerity has been the reduction in central government grant funding to Unitary, County and District Councils while simultaneously restricting councils to a maximum Council Tax increase of two percent. (The exception has been this year's relaxation to allow an additional two percent to try to shore up adults' and children's social care services.)

#### **Local tax increases?**

This has meant councils up and down the country looking to pass on responsibility for some non-statutory services to the lower town and parish council levels, where no cap on raising Council Tax levels exists. The result is that many

parish and town councils are discussing significant percentage increases in their precept (local tax) to fund those services their communities feel are important enough to be continued. What Shropshire Council calls the 'Big Conversation' continues, with further discussions due in Local Joint Committee meetings this autumn.



*Councillor Nigel Hartin*

#### **Parishes need to work together**

Many parishes have, not unreasonably, argued that to expect small rural parishes with small precepts to do this in isolation could lead to triple figure percentage increases in Council Tax: hence Shropshire Council's attempts to get parishes to work together via their Local Joint Committees. This exercise has emphasised that local councils have, possibly, the ability to levy an increase in precept should they try to assume responsibility for some services.

It has recently been confirmed by the Government that any services transferred down to parish and town council level from principal authorities are not to be subject to a two percent cap.

#### **Good voter turnout**

On a brighter note, the recent Shropshire by-election in Bishops Castle was a keenly contested fight with Jonny Keeley, the Liberal Democrat candidate, winning 61 percent of the votes cast. There was much more interest in this election, which confounded the usual complaint of the general public's apathy at election times.

*Councillor Nigel Hartin  
Shropshire Council  
Clun Division*



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## Local business keeps flowing

Being of an inquisitive nature - some would say nosey - I've often wondered whether someone at Radnor Hills Mineral Water Company on the road between Bucknell and Knighton would be willing to talk to me about the business. I had a number of questions that I really wanted to ask. A couple of e-mails and a few 'phone calls later I found myself being greeted warmly in reception by William Watkins, the owner and founder of the company.

After introductions, William ushered me into his office that looks out across a courtyard of farm buildings to the 18th century Hearts-ease Farm House, which he says is believed to have once been a hunting lodge. We reclined in a couple of large comfy leather sofas and were surrounded on the walls by black and white photographs of past generations of Watkins.

With the family dog lying just outside the door to the office keeping an eye on me, William explained that his family have lived and farmed in the Teme Valley at Stanage since 1903. Mixed arable and livestock farming was, and continues to be, the family business.

Some years ago, William and his father had ideas about the potential for diversifying the farming business. William studied food marketing for his degree at the University of Newcastle in the late 80s and this fed his ambition to turn academic theory into business practice. When

William returned from university, father and son talked about expanding the business with a new venture. At the time there was a growing consumer interest in imported bottled water, such as Perrier. Why not bottle and sell local water?' the pair asked themselves, and so the idea for the Radnor Hills Mineral Water Company began to take shape ..... ***time for me to ask some questions.***

**So, how did the business start and how has it developed since?**

Well, it all started off in 1989 on a small scale packing 'cuplets' of water for airlines. I used to load them in to the boot of the car and drive down to Heathrow area to make deliveries. Gradually the operation got bigger and we installed more equipment and started bottling for companies like McDonald's. But we found out quite early on that you can't depend on supplying just one or two large customers. If

for whatever reason one of them no longer wants your products, it can cause a great deal of disruption, so we decided to create our own drink brands, market them for ourselves and not rely completely on own-label clients.

**Ever since reading Mike Star's article in the spring edition of the Bucknell Newsletter (no 10) about the Elan Valley Dams and the aqueduct to Birmingham, I've wanted to know if the company draws its water from the aqueduct or some other source.**



**William Watkins  
Radnor Hills Mineral  
Water Company**

We used to have a supply of water from the aqueduct, which actually runs across parts of our land, but when the Regional Water Authorities were privatised in 1989 we gave up our rights to the supply. Severn Trent put in a borehole instead. You have to remember that at this point the water in the aqueduct is completely 'raw'. It's entirely untreated so, for us to have a mains supply, the company would have had a lot of cost involved in treatment works and goodness knows what else.

**What is your water source?**

You have to think where the water comes from in terms of the topography of the area. We're sitting here in the Teme Valley - the River Teme being one of the main tributaries into the River Severn. If you go west from Heartsease you'll travel about 27 miles up through Beguildy and Felindre and then get to the top of the valley. All the rain that falls into this catchment area comes down into a very large gravel drift - pretty much all of the Teme Valley has this gravel. The gravels make an extremely good filter, so we extract primarily from the gravel drift, but we do take some from the bedrock further up the banks of the valley. Due to the nature and size of the catchment and this rather narrow pinched area at Stanage, this is the last point where you're able to extract water that's just from the valley. It starts to open up from here and as you go east towards Leintwardine you get into much bigger flood plains. Bucknell, for example, is an entirely different catchment as the Redlake runs into the Clun.

**Do you pump the water up from the gravel or is it under its own pressure?**

We have 12 boreholes on the site, or nearby that we pump from, which tap into

a massive underground body of water that flows through the different layers of gravel. Unlike other local rivers, the underground water and the River Teme flow contiguously. We've farmed here for generations so we know that at times in the summer the Teme can dry up completely. In severe cases the water stops flowing pretty much from Knighton to the Lingen Bridge at Bucknell, but the flow underground continues because of the enormous water-bearing gravel drift that's below the surface. The Environment Agency has studied our levels of extraction and it's really insignificant in terms of the total volume of water that's down there.

**What water treatment takes place?**

All we do is filter the water to remove any tiny bits of stone or rock - nobody wants those in their drink! We also put it through a micro-filter, which isn't really necessary because it comes out completely sterile, but it's an added security measure. In filtering the water nothing is changed in its constituents; the dissolved mineral content remains exactly the same.

**What are the drinks that you produce?**

We bottle a diverse range of mineral water, flavoured spring water, juices and school-compliant soft drinks, including Radnor Hills, Aqua Splash, Radnor Fruits, Radnor Fizz, Radnor Fruit Cola, Heartsease and Heartsease Farm brands. As a company, we've invested in state of the art processes and have really high-tech machinery to ensure that we're able to keep abreast of trends in the soft drinks industry. We look for a gap in the market and develop products to fit that gap. For example, we've become really successful in the schools market by meeting the changes to schools catering that were set

out in the Schools Food Association regulations. We developed a range of school-compliant drinks and we're now a leading supplier to schools nationwide.

**I've bought Heartsease Farm drinks in Tuffins and I've seen them on sale in other outlets too. Can you tell me more about these drinks?**

For some time I'd felt there was an opportunity in the soft drinks market for a really premium range of sparkling pressés that could be bottled in both glass and plastic. My idea was to create a range of drinks to reflect the heritage of the farm and our passion for great flavours. We use the best ingredients available from the countryside – we make all our own syrups here on site - and blend them with our own spring water to traditional British recipes. I believe these are the only drinks of their kind to be bottled in plastic and glass bottles, which makes them suitable for a very wide market.

**As you've grown you must have taken on more and more people and become a major employer in the area. How many employees do you have?**

At present we have over 180 employees of which about one third are casuals. Depending on demand, we take on casuals through an agency, but the vast majority of our team is made up of permanent employees who live locally. Quite a few employees travel in from Knighton and elsewhere in Powys, but we also have people from Shropshire and Herefordshire. In view of the high-tech machinery and up-to-date techniques we have in production and warehousing, many of our people are highly-qualified specialists, but we also have a dedicated team of support staff and a whole variety of jobs requiring all sorts of skills and talents.

**What's the annual turnover of the company and what quantity of bottles are produced?**

Last year (2015), we had a turnover in excess of £34 million and we bottled well over 200 million drinks – with the capacity to do even more. Also, we're always looking for new product lines and different forms of packaging for our drinks. For example, we've the Tetra-Pak range of drinks that come in a variety of different sizes, including some quite small packs that are in prototype form, which we're aiming at the healthcare sector – for patients' drinks.

**I know you've won a number of major national and local awards. What are some of your past achievements and are there any latest developments?**

In 2006, Radnor Hills Mineral Water Company was presented with the 'Queen's Award for Enterprise' in the International Trade Category, which we really treasure. Locally, just a couple of weeks ago the company was presented with the 'Powys Business Award 2016' for manufacturing and we're also shortlisted for the food and drink category for the 'Insider Made in Wales Awards 2016', so we're waiting to see the outcome of that nomination.

**In conclusion**

I'm grateful for the time William spent talking with me last month. He also put up with the batteries on my Dictaphone going flat, which meant me relying on memory for some of the facts and figures and asking William for additional input several weeks after our meeting. Time for a drink - just reaching for some refreshing Radnor Hills Mineral Water to keep an enterprising local business flowing!

*John Warner*



### A 'Reet' Good Couple of Days

In the early-morning hours of Thursday 8 September, five 'Bucknell Boys' went on a two-day exploration of the River Wye from Hoarwithy to Ross-on-Wye. Determined to beat the raging rapid waters, the boys set off in two canoes on the first ten-mile leg of an adventurous exploration.

Within five seconds of the start, one of the canoes had capsized. The two canoeists bravely swam to the bank, emptied their canoe and rejoined the others, who, it has to be said, did *nothing* to help their colleagues!



L - R: Dave Fenlon, Roger Percival, Roger Bates, Stuart Fairclough and Dave Baker

Over the next four hours, the scenery and wildlife were superb in parts and simply breathtaking in others. Swans, ducks, geese, herons, cormorants, pheasants and kingfishers were spotted in abundance. Lots of 'things' were seen in the water ranging from jumping salmon and pike - we even thought Moby Dick put in an appearance at one stage! There were numerous historic points of interest too; the beauty of it all is that a canoe is the only way to see most of the views.

Later, the Bucknell Boys came ashore to a cosy B&B on the river bank at Ross-on-Wye, where good food and numerous

'wee swallies' were taken - purely medicinal, of course.

The next morning after a good breakfast, the 'Intrepid Five' set about the remaining 15 miles to Symonds Yat. Again, not without incident, as a brave canoeist was discharged into the river while boarding his canoe, much to the delight of the remaining adventurers. However, onwards and upwards - the boys were soon in their rhythm and enjoying the scenery and more historic points of interest to see.

A four-hour canoe journey saw the boys reach their finish destination at Symonds Yat and then a drive back to Bucknell for a well-earned rest, but also to plan further adventures - watch this space!

**Summary:** a cracking good two-day trip that's thoroughly recommended.

*Dave Fenlon*

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## How about a delicious casserole?

With the onset of darker evenings and falling temperatures, a hearty sausage and bean casserole is a filling dish to ward off the cold and tickle the taste buds.

*Preparation time:* 30 mins to 1 hour

*Cooking time:* 30 mins to 1 hour

*Serves:* 6

Recipe from: *The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best*



### Ingredients

1–2 tbsp sunflower oil  
12 good quality pork sausages (from Lance Phillips or Ludlow Food Centre)  
6 rashers rindless streaky bacon, cut into 2.5cm/1in lengths  
2 medium onions, thinly sliced  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
½ –1 tsp hot chilli powder or smoked paprika  
1 x 400g/14oz can chopped tomatoes  
300ml/10fl oz chicken stock  
2 tbsp tomato purée  
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 tbsp dark brown muscovado sugar  
1 tsp dried mixed herbs  
2 bay leaves  
3–4 sprigs of fresh thyme  
100ml/3½fl oz red or white wine (optional)  
1 x 400g/14oz can butter beans or mixed beans  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

**If you have a sure-fire recipe that you would like to share with other people, please let me know. (Editor)**

### Preparation

1 Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a large non-stick frying pan and fry the sausages gently for 10 minutes, turning every now and then until nicely browned all over. Transfer to a large saucepan or a flame-proof casserole dish and set aside.

2 Fry the bacon pieces in the frying pan until they begin to brown and crisp, then add to the sausages.

3 Place the onions in the frying pan and fry over a medium heat for five minutes until they start to soften, stirring often. (You may need to add a little more oil.)

4 Add the garlic and cook for 2–3 minutes more until the onions turn pale golden-brown, stirring frequently.

5 Sprinkle over the chilli powder or smoked paprika and cook together for a few seconds longer.

6 Stir in the tomatoes, chicken stock, tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar and herbs.

7 Pour over the wine, or some water if you're not using wine, and bring to a simmer.

8 Tip carefully into the pan with the sausages and bacon and return to a simmer, then reduce the heat. Cover the pan loosely with a lid and leave to simmer very gently for 20 minutes, stirring from time to time.

9 Drain the beans and rinse them in a sieve under cold running water. Stir the beans into the casserole, and continue to cook for ten minutes, stirring occasionally, until the sauce is thick.

10 Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper and serve with rice or slices of rustic bread.

## Adult day out

During the school holidays, magazines and websites often come up with ideas for days out that are intended to appeal to families with children. These usually involve occupying children in outdoor pursuits or visits to places that they'll find interesting and, hopefully, keep them away from their beloved smart 'phones and tablets. But, how about some day-out suggestions for adults without children in tow? Well, here's an idea for a day out that my wife, Emma, and I tried out a few weeks ago. It involved a drive, scenery, spectacular views, shopping and a great pub lunch in Hay-on-Wye.

We headed out of Knighton on the road to Presteigne, but turned right part way up the hill and took the road to Whitton. At the crossroads in Whitton, we carried straight on, over the River Lugg, and headed south (B4357) through a series of hamlets and villages with intriguing place names, including Beggar's Bush, Evenjobb and Burlingjobb. At Burlingjobb, after a short distance on the A44 (you could go through Old Radnor instead), we made a sharp right turn on a road that skirts Old Radnor Hill and then tootled along towards Gladestry and Newchurch (B4594). Just before Rhos-Goch, we took a turn to the left on a lane that passes through Plaswarren and then on to Clyro on the A438. From there, it's just a short distance into the centre of Hay-on-Wye after crossing the river via the B4351.

The route to Hay-on-Wye provides some stunning distant views of the mountainous terrain that makes up Radnorshire and beyond in this part of Mid Wales. We found ourselves stopping on a number of occasions to take it all in, and regretted

not being able to take pictures as we'd forgotten the camera. The scenery also sparked off a conversation about what are hills and what are mountains. We agreed that if it's over 300 metres or 1,000 feet high, then it must be a mountain but, on checking the Ordnance Survey map, the 'mountains' in the area all seem to be called hills, such as Llanfihangel Hill (532 metres) near Gladestry, or Newchurch Hill (424 metres). Does anybody know what the height definition of a mountain is, or for that matter even care?

After parking and a walk along the banks of the River Wye (I'm surprised just how wide it is this far upstream from Hereford) and negotiating our way around some frisky and inquisitive young cattle, we arrived in town. Now you may be book lovers, in which case you'll be in your own personal heaven in Hay-on-Wye spending time sorting through acres of secondhand books in a town that's renowned for its many book shops. We, however, headed down Broad Street and visited a shop selling fossils and browsed antiques in the art-deco styled Old Electric Shop, before heading to The Three Tuns for a drink and something to eat.



**Three Tuns Pub and Restaurant, Hay-on-Wye**

The Three Tuns was Hay's first house and its oldest pub, which dates back to the early 16th century. Despite a serious fire in 2005 and lying derelict for awhile, it's been beautifully restored and extended.

It's well worth looking around the ground floor and upstairs to appreciate the building's age, inglenook fireplaces, ancient settle, snug and wealth of exposed timber beams. Whenever we've visited the pub, the sun has been shining. That day was no exception, so we made a beeline for the stone flagged courtyard at the rear of the building. This can only be described as a sheltered oasis complete with large umbrellas, patio heaters and a proliferation of seasonal planters. Dogs are welcome in this area, should you decide to take one (or two) along with you for a visit.

The pub serves local ales and ciders, has a reasonably priced wine list and has an excellent and regularly changing menu. Our previous visits have involved Sunday lunch - we've never been disappointed.

On this occasion, we shared a starter of beef carpaccio, olives and shaved parmesan, which was savoured and consumed rather quickly. Emma followed this with a traditional roast beef and Yorkshire pudding Sunday lunch, that included lovely fresh (not frozen) seasonal vegetables - all of which she admits she 'inhaled'.

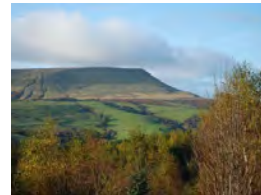
I was surprised and delighted to find a mixed seafood bouillabaisse on the menu, served with sour dough bread. This is a personal favourite. I've enjoyed bouillabaisse in a number of different restaurants and countries over the years. I made the right choice; it was the most delicious I've ever tasted - a perfect balance of herbs, broth, tomato, fish and shellfish.

I'm not sure how we found room, but we were tempted by the desserts on offer

- spoilt for choice even. After much consideration, and a bit of a pause to bathe in the glorious autumn sunshine, we opted for banana and dark rum cheesecake, with chocolate 'rocks'. Wow! That went down exceedingly well.

Congratulations to Daniel Bowley the head chef at the Three Tuns who devised the menu and to Jason Fletcher the chef who was responsible for cooking on the day of our trip. I stuck my head round the kitchen door to compliment the team on an excellent meal and especially for my outstanding bouillabaisse - feedback that went down well with the staff. If you're wondering where to eat away from some of the more crowded bars and eateries in the town, the Three Tuns Pub and Restaurant is the place to visit. You can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome, well-kept beers and great food, all in an historic setting.

On our return journey, we headed out of town to the Black Mountains and Hay Bluff, where we made a stop



**Hay Bluff**

to marvel at the stunning views, watch hang gliders and wild ponies, and to walk off such a splendid lunch. We then continued south on the often unfenced narrow road through the Vale of Ewyas to Llanthony and downhill towards the main Abergavenny to Hereford road (A465). Once in Hereford, we took our usual route back to Bucknell.

All in all, this was one of our best adult days out and we've no hesitation in recommending it to you.

*John Warner*



## Bucknell's Jet Kart Ace

You may recall the article in the spring edition of the Bucknell Newsletter about Sam Hornsey and how he's competing in the British Superbike Championship; well it seems we have another person in Bucknell who's willing to take risks in a quest for speed.



Andy Gough on HX Monster before a run

After watching Channel 4's Scrapheap Challenge on TV about building a jet engine out of scrap in 2002, Bucknell's Andy Gough was inspired to build one himself and attach it to a go-kart. He acquired a large turbo-charger from a lorry to form the compressor stage of the jet engine and fabricated all the other parts needed from scratch, drawing on his years of experience of working on motor-bikes and cars. The vehicle he built was named 'WitchCraft' and used a standard kart chassis. The jet engine was mounted behind the driver's seat and included a cylindrical afterburner that extended from the back of the kart by about three feet.

Having built the jet kart where do you let it rip? Well, certainly not along Bedstone

Road (despite there being a few car drivers around who think it's a suitable racetrack). Andy said that half the battle after building the machine was where it could be tried out. He decided to take WitchCraft to the world-famous Santa Pod Raceway in Northamptonshire to put it through its paces.

Only inches above the ground, Andy fired up the jet engine waited for maximum thrust to build and then raced down the track with the afterburner glowing red hot. This was back in 2011 when, during one of his runs, Andy achieved a world record of 71 mph for a homemade jet-engine powered go-kart over a standing quarter of a mile, beating the previous record that had been held for ten years by an American.

This being a competitive business, Andy's record was challenged by other enthusiasts with their own jet-engine karts built to similar specifications. Currently, the world record stands at 93 mph.

With his record broken, perhaps this was the time for Andy to consider hanging up his helmet and racing overalls - two years ago, he sold WitchCraft. It was not, however, the end of his record-breaking attempts. Soon after the sale of his kart, Andy was approached by Andrew Morris of Midlands Hydraulics in Nottingham with an invitation to become the driver for DIY Gas Turbines team.

Andy returned to Santa Pod, but this time with the team's HX Monster kart aiming to regain the world record. After a couple of attempts he said, "I did two quarter-mile runs, but unfortunately I only managed to reach 90 mph. This was because when I hit the methanol-injector switch, it leaned out the afterburner too much and she popped out. This is a simple fix; we just

need to add more fuel in to the after-burner before I hit the methanol; we should then be good for over 100 mph."

Last month (October), Andy went with HX Monster to Shakespeare County Raceway in Warwickshire. The kart started well and got off the line fast, but it was soon clear that it had a mechanical issue. This turned out to be a blown fuse, which was soon sorted. Andy went back out and did a 92.11 mph run, missing out on the world record by less than one mile per hour, but he was more than a second faster down the track than when the current record holder did a run of 92.89 mph.

After the attempt, Andy said, "Shame I couldn't have got it clean this time but this stuff is all experimental and the only time

we can test is when we run. We'll just keep tweaking it until it's right."

Andy has agreed to drive the kart over a flying mile at Elvington Race Track in West Yorkshire at a forthcoming outing. "We think around 130-140 mph could be possible."

The latest news is that, courtesy of a well-off benefactor, Andy is about to take delivery of yet another kart that he'll keep and race himself in 2017.

Good luck Andy with regaining the world record - and keep safe.

To get a feel of what Andy experiences, see:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UxgLN4GLXA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UxgLN4GLXA)

## Odds and Ends

### Victorian gravestones emerge

Since a large and unruly holly tree was cut down at the western end of St Mary's Church, Bucknell, two old gravestones have emerged. Both are in readable condition (unlike many of the old headstones elsewhere in the churchyard) and are dedicated to the memory of Stephen Pugh who died in 1855 and John Meredith who died in 1859. Both headstones

also commemorate each man's wife. Perhaps there are descendents who still live in the local area who may wish to visit their relatives' graves, if so, please do let them know.

### Woodpecker having a go

It's not everyday that you see woodpeckers about in Bucknell, but one has been particularly active recently in the grounds of St Mary's Church. It's been steadily working its way up the flagpole pecking furiously and noisily. Let's hope it's just searching the wood for bugs - and doesn't intend to drill its way right through the flagpole. After all, the pole is rather close to the road!



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## Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

### Changing times ... continued

It is good to be able to report that we now have an additional Councillor to fill one of the vacancies created by the resignations of Beverley Stone and Ian Graves earlier in the year.

Duncan Cullimore allowed his name to be put forward and the Parish Council was pleased to accept his nomination at our September meeting. As well as being a member of St Mary's Church Council, Duncan has been a very active member of the Parish Plan Review Group – latterly acting as its secretary. He has kindly agreed to lead on issues arising from the parish plan review.

For your information, the following table shows a listing of all the Councillors' subject leads. It is updated from time to time as necessary and published on the Bedstone and Bucknell website:

**[www.bedstoneandbucknell.org](http://www.bedstoneandbucknell.org)**

You'll notice we still have a vacancy for a Councillor. If you, or someone you know, could make a lively and committed contribution to the life of the village as a Councillor, do get in touch to talk it through. As an early warning the whole Council will be up for election in May 2017; so, if not now, perhaps then?

### Shropshire cuts

As you'll see elsewhere in the newsletter, Nigel Hartin has written about this ongoing and unfortunate saga. We certainly aren't out of the woods yet – though, confusingly, we aren't even sure if we are meant to be in the woods!

Despite taking every opportunity to ask Shropshire Council officers and councillors just what it is that they may in future not provide, and expect us in the parishes to deliver instead, we still do not have a definitive list from them. (contd.)

NAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Jonathan Kemp	Chair of Parish Council; Chair (temporary) of Parish Council Staffing Committee; Lead on Parish Council Management and Governance matters; Member of South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee
Ian Owen	Vice Chair of Parish Council; Member of Parish Council Staffing Committee; South Shropshire Housing Association liaison
Duncan Cullimore	Lead on Parish Plan matters
Will Davies	Lead on 'Street Scene' matters including Trees and Roads; Parish Council representative on Bucknell War Memorial group
Alan Faulkner	Lead on St Mary's closed Churchyard matters (except for trees)
Florence Hughes	Joint Lead for Older Persons matters
Chris Savery	Member of Parish Council Staffing Committee; Lead on Internal Governance (annual appointment)
Beryl Sharp	Joint Lead on Older Persons matters
Vacancy	-

As an example, I was recently told that the Library Van Service was 'likely' still to continue. Likely! No greater promise could be made. And just to muddy the waters, some of the vans need replacing – and is there the money for that? And maybe the vans could be used to carry other council services on them as well as books? (What like a fitness suite?!) So matters remain unfortunately and frustratingly still up in the air. The best we can do is to keep asking hard questions, reflecting the view from this end of the telescope. I'm always happy to hear your views or ideas – as is Nigel. Do make contact if you'd like.

#### **And in other news**

In amongst the uncertainty, it was good to be told by St Mary's Primary School at the start of term that:

"We are starting the autumn term in a really strong position. The school has recently had very successful Ofsted and Church inspections. The school numbers have risen since last year and we will have nine new reception children. The total number on roll will be 45. The school has now taken over the management of Pre-School which will support transition and continuity. This year will also see us working closely with two neighbouring schools - Clunbury and Newcastle. We are hoping that a close relationship will help with sharing resources, training and expertise."

We are lucky still to have a school and doubly lucky that, through immense hard work by the staff, the supporting volunteers and parents – and not forgetting the governors – it is successfully thriving, helping develop and grow the next generation – and contributing in so many

ways to the village and its vibrancy.

Thank you!

*Jonathan Kemp, Chair, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council*



#### **Dickie's Big Grouse**

Wouldn't it be nice to walk to The Sitwell Arms at Sunday lunchtime to meet with some friends for a pre-lunch drink? But now we've got to travel approximately four miles to get a drinkable pint of beer - either to The Sun at Leintwardine or The Royal George at Lingen. Why is the beer so undrinkable at the Sitwell most of the time? When I first came to live in Bucknell, Peter and Silvia had just opened the Sitwell and the drink and food were perfect. Then it changed hands and went down hill. Then it changed hands again and we all thought the new landlord would get it back up to scratch. Some others thought otherwise, and they've been proved right! Is it that the cellar is no good? (Probably not; Peter and Silvia used the same one.) Is it that the beer is too green and not left to mature before it's used, or is it totally bad cellar management?

*Dick Whitlock*

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## **Autumn garden roundup: trimming, pruning, protecting, watering and feeding**

Now autumn is here and winter is approaching, it's time to make sure all the hedges and shrubs have been trimmed. Be careful with some shrubs not to remove next year's flower bud. Cutting hedges to an "A" shape allows the whole hedge to grow next spring rather than leaving some in the shade and then not growing properly. Conifers should be trimmed carefully as if you cut back to brown foliage it's unlikely to reshoot.

Some shrubs like lavatera, heather, buddleia and roses can be shortened in autumn as this prevents 'wind rock'. Don't prune too hard as if there's some die-back, the plants have less growing points to shoot from next spring. These shrubs have a second pruning in the spring when you can see what's reshooting. Non-stone

fruit trees can be pruned in the autumn too once the fruit has been picked. Also, be careful not to take out next year's fruit buds especially if they're tip bearers, such as apple trees. Grease or grease bands can be applied to the fruit trees now to stop codling moths laying their eggs in the tree over winter. It's also a good idea to feed all plants especially fruit trees with manure/compost now as this will break down over the winter and will raise the sugar levels in next year's fruit.

Watering and feeding is especially important at this time of year for rhododendrons and camellias as a drying out can be a major reason why these plants flower buds fail to open in spring.

*Nick and Andrew Coull  
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## Just a Little Humour



A man walked into a pub, took a frog from his pocket and placed it on the bar. 'I'm sorry sir but we don't serve frogs,' said the landlord. 'He doesn't want a drink,' said the man. 'He wants to play the piano.'

'That's impossible,' said the landlord. 'You think so?' said the man. 'Well, just watch this then.' He lifted the piano lid and placed the frog on the keyboard. The frog jumped from key to key playing classical pieces, jazz, and pop tunes.

The customers gathered around and became very excited, texting their friends to share the performance. The pub filled to the extent that the landlord had to bring in extra staff. He approached the man saying, 'I would like to buy your frog; I'll give you £100.00 for him.'

'No deal,' said the man.

'£500.00 then,' said the landlord.

'No deal,' said the man.

'£1,000.00 then,' said the landlord.

Eventually, the man replied, 'No deal, but you might be interested in my mouse.'

'What does your mouse do then?' asked the landlord.

The man took the mouse from his pocket, placed it on the bar, and the mouse began to sing along to the tunes played by the frog. More customers came into pub and the tills were filling with their money as they ordered more and more drinks.

'If you won't sell me the frog, how much do you want for the mouse?' asked the landlord.

'I'll sell you the mouse for £2,000.00', said the man.

'Done,' said the landlord, and paid the man £2,000.00.

'Thank you,' said the man, handing over the mouse, and putting the frog back into his pocket.

'One thing I don't understand,' said the landlord. 'You sold me the mouse, but not the frog; why was that?'

'Well, apart from the frog being a superb pianist,' said the man. 'He's also a brilliant ventriloquist.'



### ***While we're on the subject of mice ...***

A little mouse walked into a music shop, stretched on tiptoes up to the counter and said, 'Please can you sell me a mouse-organ?'

The man behind the counter replied, 'I'm very sorry, but we don't stock anything like that', and then went on to say, 'A little girl mouse came in earlier and asked for the exact same thing.'

'Ah yes,' said the mouse. 'That would have been our Monica.'

*Peter Barron*

### **Think you can do better?**

Please send your jokes, anecdotes or funny stories to: [warnerj47@sky.com](mailto:warnerj47@sky.com)

Also, if you'd like to write about: something that you've done; an issue that you feel strongly about; or a place that you've visited recently, which you think other people would like to read about, don't hesitate to send them in for inclusion in a future edition of the Bucknell Newsletter.



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## Lost at Sea

Steve Sherring has been investigating the background to the plaque in Bucknell Memorial Hall to the memory of Hubert Watkins Jukes.

The plaque reads:

*In proud and loving memory of Hubert Watkins Jukes, born December 31st 1899, who, as Wireless Operator on board S.S. Laristan, went down with his ship when it foundered in Mid Atlantic January 26th 1926. This memorial is erected by a few of the inhabitants of Bucknell, his native village.*

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

This simple plaque conceals a heroic but tragic tale. Hubert was born in Ludlow to Albert and Mary Eliza Jukes, but by 1911 the family were living at 1 Bedstone Road, Bucknell. His father was an estate mason and Hubert had four brothers. He was the middle child and still at school while the eldest brother was an assistant groom and the next eldest was an errand boy.

By 1918, Hubert would have been 19 years old but there is no record of him joining the armed services. It seems probable that he had already joined the Merchant Navy and was thus in a reserved (but extremely dangerous) occupation.

Records show that in 1924 Hubert had signed on to the 'SS Merchant Prince' as 2nd Radio Officer and by 1925 he was the Radio Officer aboard the 'SS Vera Radcliffe'. He then joined the 'SS Laristan' on 8th September 1925.

The SS Laristan of 4,239 tons was built as the 'SS Wilton' by the West Hartlepool Shipbuilders, William Grey & Co for the Pyman Steamship Company. In 1918,

she was purchased by the Hindustani Shipping Company, a division of Common Brothers, and later renamed the SS Laristan. The vessel had an interesting background being torpedoed by the German submarine UB57 and was beached near Hastings. She was then refloated, repaired and returned to service.

In 1926, the SS Laristan was sailing from Swansea to New York with a cargo of anthracite and, caught in a severe storm, she began to take on water. Hubert sent out a distress signal that was picked up by the 'SS Bremen.' The following is an abstract from the New York Times:

*The North German Lloyd Liner Bremen arrived yesterday from Bremen, her first appearance in port since the memorable trip when on January 26th she rescued six men of the 30 who comprised the crew of the lost British freighter SS Laristan. In taking off part of the crew of the sinking freighter, Captain Randolph Wurpts accomplished an almost unparalleled feat of seamanship, it was related yesterday.*

Captain Wurpts had stood by in heavy seas and rescued six of the 30 crew. Contact was then lost in a heavy snow squall. The Bremen stood by until dawn next day but then found only wreckage.

The following message was received by Hubert's parents:

*Your son, Hubert, has asked us as a last favour to him to send you his love. To almost the very last minute we had been in constant communication with him, and hoped to be able to save him. May the knowledge that your son, by sticking to his post tried to help his shipmates, help to lessen your pain at this terrible loss.- Radio Officers, SS Bremen.*





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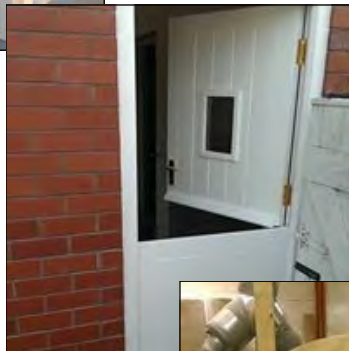


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## Regular Dates

### Every week

Monday	9.00am-1.00pm Bedstone Art Group	Bedstone Village Hall	Celia Keane (530397)
Tuesday	9.00-11.30am Mothers' and Toddlers' Group	Memorial Hall	Leanne Lewis (07869 470684)
Tuesday	9.00-11.00pm Grumpy Old Men's Club	Baron at Bucknell	
Wednesday	10.30am-12.00pm Pop In Café	St Mary's Church	Margaret Hay-Campbell (530750)
Friday	7.45pm Bingo	Memorial Hall	Dorothy Edwards (530252)
Saturday	9.30am Indoor Circuit Training	Memorial Hall	Helen Bithell (07775 520968)

### Every fortnight

Monday	9.00am – sharp Bucknell Walkers	Lych Gate St Mary's Church	Graham Jackson (530137)
Wednesday	11.20-11.40am Mobile Library Service	Belmont Garage end of the Causeway	Shropshire Library Service (01743 255024)
Thursday	7.30pm Skittles (Sept-May) Boules (June-August)	Memorial Hall or Baron at Bucknell	Sylvia and Derek Meredith (530422)

### Every month

Last Monday	7.30pm Bucknell Book Group	Variable venues	Margaret Hay-Campbell (530750)
First Tuesday	2.30pm Mothers' Union	Variable venues during winter months	Jean Pryke (530231) or Iris Greaves (530152)
	7.30pm Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council	Variable venues (See noticeboards)	Jonathan Kemp Chair (530398)
Third Wednesday	7.00pm Women's Institute	Memorial Hall	Christine Price President (530249)
Last Wednesday	7.30pm Craft Group	Variable venues	Fran Turnbull (530833)

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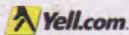
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<b>Bucknell Women's Institute</b> President: Christine Price (530249) Secretary/Treasurer: Beryl Starr (530179)	<b>Bucknell Nurseries:</b> Andrew and Nick Coull (530606)
<b>Bucknell Walkers:</b> Graham Jackson (530137) Website: <a href="http://bucknellwalkers.blogspot.co.uk">http://bucknellwalkers.blogspot.co.uk</a>	<b>Bucknell and Bedstone Good Neighbours and Community Cars</b> Chair: Mike Starr (530179) Secretary: Dave Baker (530495) Coordinators: Sue Fairclough (530279) and Sue Percival (530040)
<b>Bucknell Allotment Association</b> Chair: Adrian Lewis (530576) Secretary: Jim Hughes (530077) Treasurer: Kate Fraser (529304)	<b>RGH Car Repairs:</b> Ralph Harris (530676)
<b>Bucknell Book Group:</b> Margaret Hay-Campbell (530750)	<b>Bucknell Craft Group:</b> Anita Lewis (0787 0219599)
<b>Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council</b> Chair: Jonathan Kemp (530398) Vice Chair: Ian Owen (530616) Councillors: Duncan Cullimore (530363) Will Davies (530207) Alan Faulkner (530547) Florence Hughes (530312) Christopher Savery (530282) Beryl Sharpe (530246) Vacancy - contact Chair if interested Clerk: Nancy Adams (01686 670579) Website: <a href="http://www.bedstoneandbucknell.org">www.bedstoneandbucknell.org</a>	<b>Mothers' Union:</b> Jean Pryke (530231)
<b>Shropshire Council, Clun Division</b> Councillor: Nigel Hartin (07583 962292)	<b>St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell</b> Head Teacher: Anna Cook (530264) Website: <a href="http://www.bucknellprimaryschool.org">www.bucknellprimaryschool.org</a>
<b>Parish Plan Group</b> Chair: Andrew Rolfe (530944) Tarena Beddoes (530810) Ian Hay-Campbell (530750) Duncan Cullimore (530363) John Derry (530350) Lesley Evans (530529) A member from Bedstone would be welcome!	<b>St Mary's Church, Bucknell</b> - part of The Middle Marches Benefice (Bedstone, Bucknell, Chapel Lawn, Clungunford, Hopton Castle, Llanfair Waterdine and Stowe) Vicar: Revd Annie Ballard Bucknell Churchwardens: Jean Pryke (530231) and Ian Hay-Campbell (530750) Website: <a href="http://www.middlemarchesbenefice.org">www.middlemarchesbenefice.org</a>
<b>Clun Valley AED Scheme</b> (Defibrillator): Nicky Edwards (07973 563829) and Ian Owen (07836 795444)	<b>Coxall Baptist Church</b> Minister: Revd Michael Humphries (520812) Elder: Florence Hughes (530312)
<b>Bucknell Stores:</b> Terry Jacks (530385)	<b>Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society</b> Chair: Graham Arnold Secretary: Carolyn Wilde (530085)
<b>The Baron at Bucknell:</b> Debra and Phil Wright (530549)	<b>Belmont Garage (Green's):</b> Dorothy Edwards and Shirley Moorhouse (530252)
	<b>Community First Responders:</b> Nicky Edwards (07973 563829) and Ian Owen (07836 795444)
	<b>Lance Phillips Quality Butchers</b> (530233)
	<b>Dado's Bistro at The Sitwell Arms:</b> Andy and Lydia McGettigan (530884)
	<b>Bucknell Post Office:</b> Klaus Steffes (530201)
	<b>Member of Parliament for Ludlow:</b> Phillip Dunne, MP (01584 872187) Email: <a href="mailto:philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk">philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk</a>

#### **Bucknell Newsletter Team**

A small team of volunteers look after the interests of the Bucknell Newsletter:

- Chair: Peter Barron
- Treasurer: Beverley Stone
- Technical Assistance: Stacie Jones (info@sjconsultancy.co.uk)
- Assistance with distribution: A band of loyal helpers - thank you.
- Editor: John Warner

Send news, articles, photographs of events, reports or other items of interest to:  
warnerj47@sky.com

**Please note: views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bucknell Newsletter team.**

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info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk

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