



Bucknell Newsletter

including Bedstone
and Brampton Bryan

Spring 2016

No: 10

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Bucknell Newsletter

Spring 2016

From the editor

Spring has well and truly arrived and the newsletter is finally complete, if a little later than intended. One of the reasons for the delay has been the sheer quantity of events that are due to take place in and around our beautiful village. Each event, date, time and ticket price has needed to be checked before committing details to print. But, things do change so I'd always check ahead if I were you as the Bucknell Newsletter will take no responsibility for wrong information. You'll have a very busy social life if you attend all the events listed between now and the end of June!

You'll have noticed the newsletter has grown and gained more colour, thanks to the businesses and organisations that have advertised. The newsletter is produced voluntarily. The advertising revenue just covers the printing costs. Editorial, design, research and newsletter delivery is all down to volunteers. If you'd like to help by providing an article or news item, or deliver in your neighbourhood, please contact me.

While delivering a newsletter before Christmas, one volunteer distributor was asked how much it cost. It's free, of course, but it was a pleasant surprise to be asked if a donation could be made. So, thank you to the couple who made an anonymous donation to help with costs.

There are plenty of stories in this edition, from lost footpaths, stories of a historical nature, a recipe, concerns about public funding, to fascinating news about a local motorcycle champion and his route to success. I hope there's something for everyone in the newsletter- your feedback is always welcome. Enjoy the read!

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

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The Sitwell Arms

Your local Free House

Special Lunches between 12.00-2.00pm every Tuesday and Thursday

'Pie and a Pint Night' Thursdays from 6.00pm

Two steaks and a bottle of wine for £25.00 on Friday nights from 6.00pm

Sunday Lunch with a choice of three different roasts and all the trimmings – also a vegetarian option 12.00-2.30pm (Booking Advised)

Greene King IPA always on-tap at £2.50 a pint

**For bookings and all other enquiries, call Helen or Steve
Tel: 01547 530213**



*"A warm
welcome awaits
you at
The Sitwell"*

The Sitwell Arms, Old Bedstone Road, Bucknell, SY7 0AA

What's happening

Back to school

St Mary's Primary School start of summer term Monday 11 April.

Ask questions and have your say about Shropshire's funding cuts

Find out about Shropshire Council's funding crisis and plans to cope with reduced budgets at the Local Joint Committee meeting being held at the SpArC Theatre, Brampton Road, Bishops Castle, on Thursday 14 April at 7.30pm.

Photos of Bucknell

Display of photographs, past and present, of Bucknell, the railway and surrounding areas at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 16 April from 10.00am until 4.00pm. Entrance £2.00, under 16s free. Refreshments available, all proceeds for the Leintwardine and Bucknell Community First Responders.

Art workshops

'Book Arts Saturday Workshops' are being held at Sidney Nolan Trust, Gallery, Rodd Farm, Presteigne, during the day on Saturday 16 April, 7 May and 21 May. The tutor is Pauline Lamont-Fisher. The workshops are a chance to explore ways in which artist's books can be made in response to the environment and place. Workshop fee: £40 per day. Places are limited and advance booking is essential. There may be a small additional fee for materials. A list of what to bring will be sent on confirmation of booking. For bookings, call: 01544 260149, or e-mail: info@sidneynolantrust.org

Village Lunch

Enjoy good hot food, good company, a raffle and a great atmosphere at the Village Lunch on Sunday 17 April at 12.30 for 1.00pm at Bucknell Memorial Hall. Cost: £9.00 adult, £4.00 child. Proceeds for St Mary's Church. For tickets, contact: Jean Pryke (530231) or Ian Hay-Campbell (530750).

Knighton Community Centre

Flicks in Knighton, showing 'Bridge of Spies' (12A) on Sunday 17 April. Doors open at 7.00pm, tickets £4.00.

Knighton Community Centre

Community Market on Saturday 23 April from 9.30am - 12.30pm in the main hall. Also, Knighton Town Silver Band Spring Concert with Builth Wells Male Voice Choir at 7.30pm.

Afternoon Tea

Celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and St George's Day with a traditional afternoon tea at Bucknell Memorial Hall on Saturday 23 April from 3.00-5.00pm. Cost: £5.00 adult, £2.50 child. Proceeds for the War Memorial Fund. Contact Sylvia Meredith (530422)

Knighton Community Centre

Auction Day on Sunday 24 April from 1.00pm until 6.00pm in the main hall.

Live Music

Jack Brett plays with Red Madog at the Baron at Bucknell on Sunday 24 April at 5.00pm.

What's happening

ODAS: Star gazing

Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society meeting at Chapel Lawn Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 28 April. 'Pro-Am variable star observing even you can do' - Roger Pickard returns to ODAS, when this time he concentrates on projects the professionals have specifically asked the society to undertake. This includes NE observations with binoculars and telescopes especially with DSLR cameras and CCDs. £3.00 at the door - to include tea/coffee and biscuits. For further details, contact, Carolyn Wilde (530085) or cmwilde@btinternet.com



Songs from a bygone age

St Mary's Church are pleased to announce, for the first time in Bucknell, a concert by vintage vocalist, Sarah Raymond, on Friday 29 April. Sarah has worked and sung on radio, TV, film and theatre and will perform music from the 1920s to the 1950s. Tickets: £10.00 (including refreshments). For more details and tickets for this exciting event, contact Margaret Hay Campbell (530750) or Roger Bates (530062). Doors at St Mary's will open at 7.00pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets available on the door.

Duck Race

Bucknell Show Duck Race at the Belmont Garage end of the causeway on the River Redlake at 1.00pm on Sunday 1 May. Tickets for the races can be bought in advance from Belmont Garage (Green's).

May Day

St Mary's Primary School, May Day holiday: Monday 2 May.

Knighton Community Centre

Flicks in Knighton, matinee showing of 'Tom Jones' (U) on Sunday 1 May. Doors open at 2.30pm and 'Lady in the Van' (12). Doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets £4.00 for each performance.

Flower fair

Hergest Croft Gardens Flower Fair, Kington, takes place on Monday 2 May from 10.00am until 5.30pm. Auction and events in aid of Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust. Take a free guided walk of the garden to see the azalea's and rhododendron's. Plants on sale from a wide range of local specialist nurseries, together with crafts and produce stalls.

Steam train coming through

A steam train is due through Bucknell on Saturday 7 May. For the enthusiasts amongst us, it's a Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No 48151.

More live music

Jack Brett plays with the Virg Clenthills Band - supporting Steve Gibbons - at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms on Saturday 7 May at 7.30pm.

Also, Jack is playing at the South Shropshire Blues Club, Ludlow Brewery, on Friday 27 May at 8.00pm.

What's happening

Brain power needed again

School Pub Quiz at The Sitwell Arms on Friday 13 May at 8.00pm. Teams of up to five for £5.00. The Sitwell was packed out for the January quiz so come and knock the "Flying Pigs" from the leader board! Proceeds for St Mary's Primary School.

Flicks in the Sticks

'Spectre' (12A) is being shown at Chapel Lawn Village Hall on Saturday 14 May at 7.30pm. Tickets £4.50 adult, £2.00 child. More information: 01547 530530

Arts Alive

Hotbuckle Production's 'Emma' (8+) is being staged at Leintwardine Community Centre on Friday 20 May at 7.30pm. Tickets £12.00. More information: 01547 540306, also www.artsalive.co.uk

ODAS: Space 2016

Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society meeting at Chapel Lawn Village Hall on Thursday 26 May at 7.30pm. News update on the current space exploration programme from Michael Bryce. £3.00 at the door - to include tea/coffee and biscuits. For further details, contact, Carolyn Wilde (530085) or cmwilde@btinternet.com

Open Gardens: National Garden Scheme

Gardens open for charity at Upper Shelderton House, Clungunford, SY7 0PE, 2.00-5.00pm (01547 540525) and Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, SY7 8AZ, 1.30-5.30pm (01588 680570) on Sunday 29 and Monday 30 May. Admission £4.00, children free; homemade teas available.

Half term holiday

St Mary's Primary School, half term: Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June.

Live Music Night

Music Night at Bucknell Memorial Hall (raising funds for The Bucknell Show) on Saturday 4th June at 8.00pm.

Flicks in the Sticks

'Dad's Army' (PG) is being shown at Chapel Lawn Village Hall on Saturday 11 June at 7.30pm. Tickets £4.50 adult, £2.00 child. More information: 01547 530530

Tractor Rally

Annual Bucknell Tractor Rally meets at 10.00am at the Recreation Ground, Daffodil Lane on Sunday 19 June (Father's Day), before vehicles leave for an off-road journey ending at the Memorial Hall for lunch. Proceeds in aid of the Memorial Hall and Air Ambulance. For further details, contact Nicky Edwards (07973 563829)



Car Boot Sale

Bucknell Show car boot sale at the Recreation Ground, Daffodil Lane, on Saturday 2 July at 2.00pm.

Summer Holiday

St Mary's Primary School, last day of summer term Friday 22 July.

General News and Views

Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society (ODAS)

A small friendly group that meets at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month at Chapel Lawn Village Hall. (If you're coming along, please check first in case of a change of date and/or venue.)

Guest presenters usually give a talk, with a slide show, on different subjects related to astronomy and science. Stargazing evenings are also planned on dates throughout the year and are usually in the garden of one of our members. The entry fee for guests is £3 per person payable at the door. Annual membership is £25 per person or £40 for couples. Tea and biscuits are provided at our meetings. Additional events include open meetings for non-astronomers and social get-togethers with good food and wine. The ODAS chair is Graham Arnold and the secretary is Carolyn Wilde. For more information, contact: *Carolyn (530085), or cmwilde@btinternet.com*

Bucknell Funding

Bucknell Funding is run by Derek Wood, Aeron Hughes, Derek Meredith and Dave Baker. Previously, the group were The Bucknell Charity Cup Committee - a cup that was competed for by local football teams. The cup was given to the village by Captain Trenthem in 1934 to help raise funds for the local district nurse and her work locally. This was before the NHS was created in 1946.

The competition for the cup didn't raise a large amount of money, and so instead it was decided to run a lottery-bonus-ball competition to generate extra funds. Eventually, after over 20 years of raising money for charities (Air Ambulance being the main benefactor), the committee decided to retire from running the Charity Cup. However, people who had been in the lottery-bonus-ball competition asked that it should continue to be run; this happened and it became Bucknell Funding.

In 2015, Bucknell Funding gave £300.00 to the Air Ambulance and £200 to Community First Responders.

Bucknell Funding still has some unsold numbers (ie 50 to 59). The cost of a number is £1.00 per week and the weekly prize is £35.00. If you would like to purchase one or more of the numbers, please contact: *Derek Meredith (530422) or Aeron Hughes (530217)*

National Lottery bid help needed



A couple of times in the past, National Lottery funding applications have been made for a new Bucknell village hall. Regrettably, bids have not succeeded - so far. This year, the Memorial Hall committee is intending to submit another bid, but help is needed to ensure this time it's successful. Nicky Edwards (chair) and Roger Bates (vice chair) are seeking volunteers who have business, commercial and fund-raising experience to put together

a 'killer' bid that cannot be refused! This may suit someone who's retired and could focus on preparing a lottery bid that meets all the called for criteria. If you're interested in taking on this challenge and would like more information, please contact: *Roger Bates (530062) or roger-bates60@gmail.com*

Nature discovery club

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, has a Discovery Club for children to explore the outdoors, have fun and get back to nature. It takes place every other Saturday at 11.00am for one hour. There are different activities each time centred on exploring nature and the outdoors, and getting crafty and creative. The club is aimed at children aged 3-7 years old, accompanied by an adult. Cost £2.50 per child. No need to book, just turn up. More information: www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

Look after yourself

It's not an exaggeration to state that using a car in the 21st century has become a very dangerous activity. If you're a driver of any age, you can improve your personal safety and lower your wear and tear costs on tyres, clutch and brakes, as well as use less fuel!



Herefordshire branch of The Institute of Advanced Motorists is running several 'Refresher Days' and Advanced Driving Courses across the county - your own driving experiences contribute to the events. Some amazing stories come to light. The most often heard comments from drivers who take part in the course are, 'Driving is now less stressful' and 'I've been driving for many years and I didn't know that!'

Contact: Stella Boyd Carpenter for Refresher Days (01432 840835), or David Williams for Advanced Driving Courses (01981 580382). A driving assessment is also available - no pass or fail, just a few pointers if necessary.

'You'd be doing this for yourself,' Mike Oliver

Parish Plan 2016

Shortly a questionnaire will be delivered to your house, gathering information for the new Parish Plan for Bucknell and Bedstone, updating the plan distributed in 2010. That plan has been the basis for informing Shropshire Council of the things that residents here care about and their aspirations for the future.

It was felt that now was the time to update the plan and as the article on the work of the Parish Council suggests this is a particularly important time to take a fresh sample of what we, as a village community want. As County Council services diminish we are going to have to decide what we want to preserve but also what we are prepared to pay for.

When your questionnaire is delivered to you – and we are going to make an effort to ensure that each resident over 16 receives a questionnaire. (We are making separate arrangements to consult younger residents – from 4 upwards!) Please fill the questionnaire in and return it. There will be an option to do this online or by post. The higher the proportion of residents who return questionnaires the more notice will be taken of the results and the more force our views will have at local and county level.

There will also be a meeting in the Memorial Hall where everyone will have the chance to come and talk about their ideas for Bucknell and Bedstone over the next 5-10 years, as well as gathering information about development proposals.

Once all the information has been gathered a plan will be produced which accurately reflects what you have told us. Make sure your ideas and feelings are in it. All you have to do is complete a simple questionnaire and maybe spend an hour at the Memorial Hall.

The Plan should be the most accurate description of what residents want. Please make sure your voice is heard.

Ian Graves, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Progress of the Bucknell War Memorial Fund

Thank you to the Pop-In Café for their generous donation of £300.00 to the Bucknell War Memorial Fund - our first donation. Thank you also to all the people who help with, and use, the café on Wednesday mornings.

A date for your diary. On Saturday 23 April at the Bucknell Memorial Hall from 3.00-5.00pm there will be a traditional afternoon tea. This is to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and St George's Day. The cost will be £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children. Proceeds are for the Bucknell War Memorial Fund.

To reserve a place, please contact Sylvia Meredith (530422)

Where does our water come from?

South of Bucknell buried at the foot of the hill and running parallel to the turnpike (A4113 Ludlow Road), lies hidden one of Victorian England's engineering masterpieces - the Elan Valley Aqueduct.

The Industrial Revolution in the 19th century saw a rapid growth in the population of Birmingham and consequently a need for clean drinking water. The Elan and Claerwen valleys in mid-Wales were identified from rainfall records as suitable sites for damming to create supply reservoirs and an Act of Parliament was duly passed for their compulsory purchase. The principal engineer, James Mansergh, then set about procuring land along which the aqueduct would be laid. His report shows there was no serious opposition from landowners. Far from it, most saw it as an opportunity to extract the maximum compensation possible. Nothing new there, then!



Craig Goch Dam, Elan Valley

Birmingham's needs, so although the Claerwen Valley project was started, it remained unfinished and a number of houses, chapels and farms were submerged in the process.

A marvel of Victorian engineering

The aqueduct itself is a marvel of engineering, relying as it does on gravity alone to carry the water at walking pace the 73 miles to the Frankley Reservoir in Birmingham.

As originally built, the aqueduct consisted of brick-lined conduits and tunnels with pipes, mostly cast iron and 42 inches in diameter, used to cross valleys and rivers. There are 11 major valley crossings where the water is siphoned across, the largest siphon being 17 miles long where it crosses the rivers Severn and Stour. The course of the aqueduct is recognisable today from the various stone and red brick buildings that house valves and maintenance equipment, examples of which can be seen locally at Bringewood Chase near Ludlow. (Aqueduct access hatches can also be seen in fields close to Brampton Bryan and towards Knighton. *Editor*)

As Birmingham grew in size the water engineers realised they needed to enlarge the system by creating another reservoir. They therefore returned to the Claerwen Valley and the resulting concrete dam, officially opened by the Queen in 1952, was taller and wider than the Elan dams. The reservoir that formed almost doubled Birmingham's water supply. Over the years water delivery has also been supplemented by the addition of a 60 inch diameter pipe in 1919, and a second one in 1961. Further plans for an even bigger dam in the 1970s were later shelved.

During World War II, the dam complex was protected against sabotage by the Home Guard. In 1942 a small 35 foot high masonry dam, which had been constructed on a side stream to supply the workmen's village, was used to test Barnes Wallis' idea of blowing

Construction work on the dams began in 1893 and was completed by 1906. As you might imagine, the project was a massive undertaking. Workmen were drawn from all over Britain and housed in their own settlement that later became Elan Village. A railway transported men and materials to the construction site. One of the main concerns was to ensure the men were properly fed and housed and, given their remote location, were not perpetually drunk!

Once the Elan reservoirs had been completed they were initially deemed to be sufficient for

Where does our water come from?

up the Ruhr dams with explosive charges placed near the base. The remains of this dam can still be seen today.

Aqueduct update

In order to modernise and refurbish parts of the Elan Valley Aqueduct, Severn Trent are proposing to build a new pipeline to abstract water from the river Severn near Stourport by 2020. This will allow essential remedial work to be carried out on the aqueduct and will be used as a back-up supply in the future. Considerable work is currently being carried out on refurbishing the aqueduct at Bledffa.

Bucknell's critical water shortage

Over the years, towns and villages along the route of the Elan Valley Aqueduct have considered tapping into it for their water supply – including Bucknell.

Nowadays we expect all homes to have running water, but life wasn't always this easy. By the late 19th century the shortage of drinking water in Bucknell had become critical. In his Annual Report for 1894, Osmond Brown, the Medical Officer of Health wrote "*The water supply of Bucknell is bad and is in my opinion dangerous to the inhabitants.*" He further went on to say that "*The surveyor informs me it would only cost £300 to provide a good supply.*" That's £27,000 in today's money, but he didn't elaborate on where the water would come from, or that realising the dream would become something of an epic!

In April 1895, the Parish Council appointed a committee to survey the available water sources in the village, which it duly did after a particularly dry spell. The west side of Bucknell was adequately supplied by Dumpling Well, but a supposedly good well at Wood Ground, 1½ miles away, had dried up. The water in the streams flowing down the Cwm Valley and Hagley Dingle was deemed to be of good quality and presumably supplied outlying properties. Houses near Turkey Hall (now the Baron at Bucknell) were dependent on either the river or the 'spout' in the orchard. Various groups of houses near the Mynd shared wells, while those to the east of the village obtained their water from one of three pumps situated at the Sitwell Arms, the Plough Inn and the Railway Inn.

Alternative supplies

Owners of wells were kind enough to share their water with neighbours. Nevertheless, there were still many dwellings that were not situated conveniently close to a water supply. For instance, the committee noted the following were not provided for: Mrs F. Edwards, Mrs Mary Edwards, Miss Everall, Mr Baldwin and Mr Picken (Old School House) - fortunately they all had permission to get their water from the pump at Cottage Hall. As a result of the findings, the committee recommended three or four new pumps be installed and passed this suggestion to the householders concerned. Only two bothered to respond.

To improve access to Dumpling Well in times of flood, the committee suggested building a footbridge over the River Redlake opposite the mill (Chapel Lawn Road), or even piping the water across. The latter proposal was supported by Mr Willoughby Sitwell of Ferney Hall, Onibury, although a "*yearly acknowledgement*" would have to be paid to the landowner for "*this important concession*".

It would seem, however, that Mr Sitwell was otherwise antagonistic to the proposed scheme the committee had in mind for Bucknell, particularly as some wells had been allowed "*to get out of order*" through underuse. In a letter to the Council dated 2 July 1895, he saw no objection to levying a rate on parishioners to raise the money necessary to improve Bucknell's water supply, and a year later reiterated his willingness for a standpipe to be erected in the village.

Where does our water come from?

Being a farming community, the siting of new wells had to be carefully planned to avoid contamination from farmyard slurry. One such issue the Council had to deal with concerned "*liquid manure*" getting into the water at The Fold (opposite the Sitwell Arms).

Lack of progress

No progress appears to have been made over the next five years. We know this because in October 1901 the Clerk to Teme Rural District Council, Edwin Deacon, wrote to the chairman of Bucknell Parish Council, indicating that the County Health Officer, Dr Porter, was still concerned about the "*very serious conditions now existing*". This stirred the

Bucknell councillors into action. On 1 November 1901 they resolved to enquire about getting water from "*the main pipes of the Birmingham water track*" – i.e. from the Elan Valley Aqueduct, which was then under construction.

Birmingham's prior claim

While the Act of Parliament allowed for local authorities to tap into the pipeline, it also ensured that Birmingham had "*prior right of supply of a quantity of water of twenty five gallons per head per day of the population.*" This wasn't just for drinking, but for all uses of water in daily life. It was clear that Birmingham wasn't going to let its water go cheaply. In December 1901, Birmingham's District Clerk informed Bucknell Parish Council that "*this great cost and stringent condition preclude the Council from entertaining the proposal to apply for the water*".

Following this disappointment, the Parish Council in Bucknell responded quickly by asking Dr Porter if greater water extraction could be achieved by deepening existing wells and digging new ones. Dr Porter was invited to give his advice to a special meeting of the council. Unfortunately, he was transferred by the Colonial Office to Johannesburg and so never made it to the meeting.

Ratepayer opposition

Whatever urgency prevailed in 1901 appears to have abated over the next two years. In August 1903, the Parish Council wrote to the new Health Officer, James Wheatley, observing that "*the water supply being very plentiful, the ratepayers strongly protest against what many of them call unnecessary expense*". Wheatley, like his predecessor, expressed his regret that the simple expedient of tapping into the Elan Valley Aqueduct, a mere mile away, had not been possible, especially as he had earlier calculated the likely running cost would be 6d per 1,000 gallons. At about this time the Parish Council were appealing against an unfair hike in the local rates, which may have contributed to their reluctance to spend money improving the water supply.

Cheapest option

Fast forward to 1906 when the District Clerk, Edwin Deacon, drew attention to a feasibility study conducted by the District Surveyor on various sources of water available to Bucknell. He concluded that there were four viable possibilities and estimated the costs:

- 1 A small spring at Hagley, 4,267 yards distant, cost £1326-15s-11d
- 2 Meadow Spring – water to be pumped to a reservoir on Onions Hill using an oil pumping engine (running costs about 7/6d per week), 804 yards distant, cost £814-0s-0d
- 3 Lough Lady Well, 2417 yards distant, cost £963-5s-9d
- 4 Elan Valley Aqueduct, 1384 yards, cost £789-7s-0d.

It's interesting that estimates were made to the nearest penny and that taking water from the Elan Valley supply should again be placed on the agenda, given that this preferred option had previously been ruled out on cost grounds. The Parish Council must have suspected that option 4 was a non-starter and plumped for the next cheapest, option 2.

Where does our water come from?

They were quickly put in their place, however, when their suggestion to use a windmill instead of a pumping engine (to save money), was dismissed as unfeasible by Edwin Deacon. In 1907 option 3 was considered. And then dropped.

And there the trail goes cold until 12 January 1925, when an exasperated Shirehall wrote: *"at the request of the Ministry of Health, the District Council have directed their engineer to examine the question of obtaining a supply from the Birmingham Corporation. I may say that so long ago as 1904, the County Council suggested that the District Council should obtain a supply from the Birmingham Corporation."* London were beginning to take an interest in rural matters.

What a farce

To an outsider this is a farcical state of affairs brought about in part, one suspects, by a complete breakdown in relations between the Parish and District Councils. In a letter of complaint to Shirehall, dated 15 February 1925, the parish Chairman wrote back: *"It seems to us as a Parish Council our time is wasted on account of treatment we are receiving by the Teme Rural Council"*. He goes on: *"We strongly protest to the continual expenses the rate payers are being put to and if all the money which has been wasted on this matter had been put to the water supply it would have gone a long way to pay for it"*. So there you have it, procrastination, council in-fighting and financial considerations all contributed to the long-running saga of Bucknell's water. Does this all sound familiar?

Meanwhile the District Council was being leaned on by their superiors and on 11 January 1926 wrote to say the Ministry had advised them to adopt the Lingen Springs scheme. Whatever that was it didn't materialise, as six years later on 23 June 1931 the District Clerk informs the Parish Council, *"I am being pressed by the Ministry of Health on this subject"* The farce continued.

Nothing suitable

In December of 1931, the local Health Department Inspector was taken on yet another tour of prospective sites around Bucknell, concluding that the Parish's notion of extracting water from them without filtration would be inadvisable. The Parish Council were still trying to keep costs down. Attention next shifted to the river Redlake with water samples being sent for analysis in Liverpool. The results showed *"no indication of the presence of organisms of a faecal origin, but the figures given by the chemical examination are not what would be considered satisfactory in a water intended for drinking purposes"*. Bucknell, it would seem, did not have a spring or well large enough to provide for the whole village, and the river water was unfit to drink.

First regular supply

We are now in 1933 and the search for fresh water takes us outside Bucknell to a spring at Pentre, Chapel Lawn, three miles away. As this turned out to be of good quality and volume, the practicalities of laying a pipeline to Bucknell were costed and plans were drawn up. Fortunately the Ministry were now actively supporting rural schemes of this nature and so a notice was published in the local paper in 1934 inviting tenders for the work, which was duly completed.

Finally, 40 years after the local water was condemned as *"dangerous to the inhabitants"*, Bucknell got its first regular supply of drinking water. Nowadays Bucknell's water is provided by Severn Trent, which collects water from boreholes (33%), rivers and reservoirs (67%). This is then cleaned in one of 19 water treatment works and pumped into mains pipes that form a 46,000 km long grid system. Meanwhile, Birmingham continues to receive its water via the Elan Valley Aqueduct that passes so close to Bucknell.

Mike Starr

Future of rural schools

It seems like the future of rural schools is a matter for considerable debate at present. The Government's Education Bill is wending its way through Parliament with some pretty far-reaching consequences, including moves, firmed up in the budget statement on 16 March, to require all schools in England to become academies by 2022. (Education is devolved in Wales and Scotland, which have no plans to go down the academy route.) This is something which divides opinion. Some people say it frees up schools to think and act outside local authority parameters and leads to better results; others point to the lamentable record of some academies.

Academies are often run as groups of schools through trusts, which Ofsted has on many occasions panned for poor quality teaching. Many teaching organisations, such as the NUT, also point to the academies in many areas, lose the services currently authority. This would specialist help for Special educational psychologists, would have to be sourced selves, potentially at even more strain on mean an end to the National Curriculum and national pay scales for teachers. In addition, responsibility for schools would pass from local authorities to one of eight Regional Schools Commissioners.

"I've lost count of the number of teachers who tell me that endless tinkering with the education system over the decades has done little to improve education for our youngsters."

worsening of standards in and that schools would provided by the local include, for example, Educational Needs, and HR and payroll. These by schools for them-greater cost and putting budgets. It would also

Minimum size requirement

Unfortunately, the small print in the Education Bill also states that in future all academies (i.e. every school now - since all schools must become academies) should be no smaller than 50 pupils and have a minimum of 120 pupils if on one site. This, combined with a freeze on additional funding for schools, means many rural primaries across England, and not just in Shropshire, face a financial 'cliff edge' by 2018. Schools are frantically trying to find ways to work together to survive - often through one of two types of 'federation'. These involve schools joining together to produce savings on running costs and operating on more than one site, but with only one head teacher taking charge of them all.

Personally, I err on the side of caution when it comes to messing around with the education system. I've lost count of the number of teachers who tell me that endless tinkering with the education system over the decades has done little to improve education for our youngsters. Also, the Government's current plan (or 'huge gamble' as some in the press have called it) goes way further than tinkering and will fundamentally change forever the way our children are educated in the state system.

Somebody once told me that the people who most often lose out when governments take huge gambles tend to be the 'little people'. I think in this case that's a bit too prophetic for comfort!

Date for your diary

The next Local Joint Committee meeting is at the SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, on Thursday 14 April at 7.30pm. Councillor Malcolm Pate the new Leader of Shropshire Council and Clive Wright, Shropshire's Chief Executive, will be in attendance. They will be talking and answering questions about the council's funding crisis and how it intends to cope with slashed budgets and financial meltdown over the next few years.

Councillor Nigel Hartin, Shropshire Council, Clun Division (07583 962292)

Short history of Bucknell WI



Over the years, Bucknell has had two Women's Institutes. The first was formed in 1936, but was disbanded at the outbreak of the Second World War as the Memorial Hall, where the meetings were held, was commandeered by the Home Guard. However, the work of the WI continued with meetings in members' homes where they made jam and bottled fruit. Jam jars were in short supply, so time was spent searching rubbish tips for them, then taking the jars home to wash and scald. When they were not busy with fruit, time was spent knitting woollen helmets and gloves for the troops.

The present WI had its formation meeting on 5 January 1949. The early programmes make for interesting reading. There were demonstrations on: home decorating; smocking; embroidery; and how to make a candlewick cushion. Slide shows of the railway were also popular and appeared in several of the programmes.

Memorable trips

The first WI trip was to Aberystwyth, but later the members ventured further afield to Bath and the Cheddar Gorge. There's also a splendid picture of members enjoying a picnic on Whitcliffe where they had a wonderful view of Ludlow Castle and the town. In later years, evening trips were preferred. On one occasion the Elan Valley was chosen as the destination, with a return trip via Newbridge-on-Wye for a meal, where one of our ladies rather over-celebrated and had to be assisted back to the coach - with much laughter. Another memorable occasion was over the Brecon Beacons when the coach driver lost his way and we ended up driving over a rifle range while the Army was practising.

Varied programme

Our WI is still thriving. Last month, 14 of our members travelled by train to Birmingham to see the New Street Station complex and next month we're off to the Cider Orchard Restaurant at Hereford College for lunch. We have lively monthly meetings with varied and interesting talks and demonstrations. In February we had 'The Myths Behind the Zodiac', in March 'Walking the Thames Path', and this month (April), a talk entitled, 'Whatever Happened to Trixie?' In September there'll be an audio-visual show featuring wine making and a demonstration in October by the 'Singing Florist'. Our popular plant sale is due to be held in May on the Green at the end of the causeway by the bridge - watch out for posters around the village for more details.

Friendly welcome awaits

Our meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. If you're new to Bucknell and would like to come to one of our meetings, have a cup of tea, and a chat, you would be given a friendly welcome and possibly meet and make new friends.

Christine Price, President

Help reclaim a missing local footpath

Carol Small requests your help

Just before the New Year, the *Guardian* published an article which warned that any pre-1949 footpaths not recorded on a definitive map by 2026 may be lost for all time.

This could come about because of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.



Footpath 5A

This reminded me of a strange footpath that goes between Buckton and Bucknell by way of Coxall Knoll. Or, rather, a footpath that once went between the two villages.

The footpath is clearly shown on all of the Ordnance Survey maps prior to the creation of the definitive map in about 1960.

Disappeared in Shropshire

Strangely, by 1960 whilst it's still shown on the Herefordshire side of the county line, it's disappeared from the Shropshire side. Shropshire's Rights of Way officer, Lucy McFarlane, briefly told me the history of this footpath, which is known as Footpath 5A, in so far as she knows it.

Apparently, when the definitive map was created, Herefordshire wanted the entire footpath shown. They got in touch with Bucknell Parish Council to add it on their side of the county line. Bucknell said that the path was widely used but that the railway company objected to a footpath crossing the railway line. And hence we now have a situation where the footpath is now unusable along its entire length.

Need to build a case

To get it placed on the definitive map (i.e. to be recognised as a public footpath once more) we would need to:

1. Build an "historical case", based upon historic documentation. This might include Ordnance Survey maps (such as those shown above), but also tithe maps and plans submitted by the railway when it was built.
2. Build a "usage case", which would show continuous usage over a 20 year period by a number of people. This, of course, will be very difficult given that the footpath was closed over half a century ago.

Can you help?

So, where do we go from here? I've recently met with Lucy at the Shropshire archives to track down documentation to help build an historical case. But do you have memories of either using the footpath yourself or knowledge of others using it? If so, please get in touch with me to see if we can also build a usage case.

Contact: carol.small@me.com, 01547 530590 or 07776 457453

Dado's Bistro

Food cooked from the heart with soul

Something new and exciting is happening in Bucknell

A talented chef is about to set to work in May preparing delicious food at Dado's Bistro - based in the restaurant at The Sitwell Arms.

Old favourites will still be served at the bar, but exciting new dishes will be on the restaurant menu, along with a range of accompanying fine wines. The aim is to use local and regional ingredients of the highest quality in the preparation of dishes that are cooked from the heart and with soul, and that appeal to diners of all tastes.

Andrew (Andy) McGettigan is already a familiar face to many people in the village as he's been living in Bucknell for almost six months. But, you may not be familiar with his outstanding reputation as a chef, so let's put you in the picture.

For the last four years, Andy has been the Head Chef at Maesmawr Hall Hotel in Caersws, Powys, where he's delighted guests with his fine-dining skills and has built a loyal following of returning diners. His past accolades include achieving the third AA Rosette at Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel in Dolgellau, and Andy has a vast portfolio of major achievements in hotels and restaurants in England and Wales.

In his personal life, Andy has run the London Marathon for Leukaemia Care, he was opening bowler for Welshpool, and married his wife Lydia 31 years ago. Andy has five adult children, and seven grandchildren, who he adores, and who know him as 'Dado' - the inspiration for the restaurant's name. His passion is soul music, and he'd love a Lambretta for a significant future birthday.

**We hope to see you at Dado's Bistro
very soon**

Watch out for a grand opening!



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Local biking champion

We've a motorcycling champion in our midst, but I'd no idea because he's modest about his racing achievements. The person in question, 22-year-old Sam Hornsey, of Hornsey Steels, is based right here in Bucknell.

'Supersonic Sam', races as number 94. He's beginning the 2016 racing season competing in the British Superbike Championship.

Achieving this hasn't happened suddenly. Persistence, determination, hard work and growing riding talent has brought him the racing success that he enjoys.

Sam has been competing for most of his life; as an eight-year-old in 2002, he began racing in schoolboy motocross. A year later, he switched to the tarmac and racing mini-bikes, finishing fourth in the British Championship.

Bigger bikes

Over the racing seasons, he has moved steadily through the ranks competing on 50cc and 80cc machines, and then onto 125cc production motorbikes. In 2008, Sam not only won the Auto-Cycle Union 125 Grand Prix Championship – with a staggering 20 wins – but also the New Era 500cc Open and New Era Superclub Championships.

In 2011, Sam stepped up to the middleweight 600cc class and contested the British



Sam Hornsey in action at the British Superbike Test at Donington Park earlier in 2016



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Local biking champion

Supersport Championship. As a 17-year-old, Sam was riding for the family-run racing team on a Suzuki and was one of the youngest riders in the class. However, he more than showed his potential. By the second half of the season, he'd become a permanent fixture in the top 20 riders, and was scoring points, which gave a good indication of what was to come.

In the following years he made steady progress, including joining forces in the second half of the 2013 season with the Oxford/TAG Racing team riding a Triumph. He continued with the team in 2014 and became a regular top-ten finisher. By mid-season, Sam was challenging hard for top six finishes and was duly rewarded at Cadwell Park Circuit in Lincolnshire with a creditable fifth place.

In 2015, Sam achieved several third-place finishes at both Silverstone and Brands Hatch - his first in the class - and took five fourth-place finishes and 12 top six finishes in total. He ended the year in seventh position overall. Sam also contested the World Supersport Championship round at Donington Park, where he rode superbly to claim a brilliant seventh place.



British Superbike Profile:

Name:	Samuel Hornsey
Race Number:	94
Race Team:	WD-40 Kawasaki Racing (GR MOTORSPORT)
Class:	British Superbikes
D.O.B:	04/02/1994

Signed with Team WD40 Kawasaki

His excellent form brought him to the attention of Team WD40 Kawasaki. Sam signed for the team, which means he's currently taking on the challenge of competing in the 2016 British Superbike Championships - considered the world's best domestic championship.

Commenting on this latest development, Sam says, "I'm really excited to be moving into Superbike. It's the premier class and it has been something I've aspired to for the past ten years. I wanted to finish on the podium in Supersport in 2015 and I achieved that, so I feel that this is now my next challenge and a new chapter for me."

You can follow Sam's progress this season live on race weekends on Eurosport, or catch up with race highlights during the week on Eurosport or ITV4. In the coming months, there are race meetings at Oulton Park (30 April-2 May), Brands Hatch (20-22 May) and Knockhill (24-26 June). Also, look out for racing news on Sam's Facebook page.

Sam is a man with strong ambitions; he says, 'My aim for the 2016 British Superbike Championship season is to be the top rookie - I don't want to be there just to make up the numbers!'

I'm sure you will join with me in wishing Sam every success for the 2016 season.

John Warner (with help from Daniel Maxwell)

From the Vicarage

Hello everyone!

In case you haven't already heard, the new Vicar has landed - or apparently so, as my feet feel as though they've hardly touched the ground since I was installed several months ago in the wonderful service at Llanfair Waterdine on 20 January.

At the moment I am still on the hamster wheel meeting new people, planning schedules and attending meetings. I'm finding my way to new places around the seven parishes, all of which have their own ways of doing things and, not to mention, finding my way round the ways of a new Diocese.



Annie B and Red

But I have already got a few important 'firsts' under my belt. I'm looking forward to working more with Bucknell's lovely primary school and we've already had a Mother's Day Service with the whole school. I've ventured into the Memorial Hall on a few occasions, and I seem to have become quite a regular at The Sitwell (Oops!) Sorry, I've not yet managed to get to The Baron, but reading about the regular meetings of the 'Grumpy Old Men', I fully intend to gatecrash at some stage!

Seriously, I want to underline that I am as committed to getting to know people out in each of the communities as I am those who come and worship on Sundays. But please be patient with me; it may take a while to get round and to remember everyone's names. There is so much happening that is exciting in this neighbourhood and I hope to be part of some of those things as they evolve. I'm going to try to get to some of the events around the villages in my patch, which will give me opportunities to meet, listen to, and share with people.

My last job covered a wonderful expanse of the Peak District and the Staffordshire moorlands and coming over here I have been getting the sense of being in a parallel universe, there are so many similarities in the landscape. Before that, I was over the border in Wales serving the parishes of the Lower Ithon Group and based in Crossgates - so in many ways I feel as though I am coming 'home'.

When I first wrote this we were in Lent, the period leading up to Easter and across the Benefice we were preparing to trace the journey with Jesus through the weeks. As you read this at St Mary's we will have had a special Family Service on Palm Sunday, including a procession outside. And also on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter Sunday, we had a mini pilgrimage, lighting a fire representing the Resurrection and going into church to celebrate together. I hope you were able to join us; everyone is always welcome at church at any time.

I am looking forward to working alongside the lovely, strong team of people who've kept the churches going over the last few years. I hope that together we can provide a welcome and sense of inspiration that spills out beyond the walls of the church.

Do introduce yourself if you see me around - and to Red, my 11-year-old Border Collie, who is very spritely and friendly, though he does guard the car!

Annie B

Rev Annie Ballard: The Vicarage, Bucknell, SY7 0BA
email: revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com

Tel: 01547 530030 (please leave a message and I'll get back to you ASAP)



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Andrew Eastwood: 4-12 June

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News from Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Changing Times

It is an interesting time for Parish Councils. For many years they have had little more to do than to concern themselves with the very local issues in their localities. Now, however, with the swingeing cuts that have been made to budgets of county councils it looks likely that town and parish councils may have to pick up some of the responsibilities that counties had – libraries is a case in point in many areas- and find different ways to continue them. The Shropshire Council Big Conversation sought the views of all Shropshire residents on what services were most valued, but it is likely that even some of those that score highly will have to be delivered in a different way. Maybe it is time to take more of an interest in your local council!

Everyone is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, but few do. There is always an opportunity to raise points at the start of the meeting, and you don't have to stay for the regular council business though you are welcome to stay. You can see what is going to be discussed by looking at the agenda, posted a week before the meeting on the notice boards on the green and Chapel Lawn Road. Minutes are posted on the village website.

Daffodil Lane

You will know that the Daffodil Lane recreation ground was created with grants after the superb efforts of local people. It was hoped that it would provide a play and recreation area for all in the village, and particularly that it would be used for sports teams. Unfortunately the football team has folded and while the play area is well used the field as a whole is not.

The Memorial Hall committee, who have responsibility for the field, became concerned about its finances last year. Even open spaces need a lot of maintenance and there is no money coming in. The committee wanted to pass ownership and management of the field back to the Parish Council, but there were legal obstacles to this. However, the Parish Council values the recreation area and has agreed to support the committee financially, with a joint management committee responsible for managing the area. This will result in an increased precept (local council revenue tax) for all taxpayers in the village, but we hope you agree that this is a valuable village resource that must be maintained.

Ian Graves, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Seeking a Parent Governor

Do you have a child at St Mary's Primary School in Bucknell?

The school is seeking an additional parent governor to join its committed and supportive governing body.

An interest in children's education is fundamental but also if you can offer any of the following skills, please consider putting yourself forward:

- 1 financial skills
- 2 business skills
- 3 publicity and marketing skills.

Being a governor is vital for the future development and health of the school. Please consider offering your time and skills to make a difference. If you would like more information, please have a chat with Jemma Gurney (07929 527276), parent governor, who would be delighted to discuss what's involved.

St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School, Bucknell (01547 530160)

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School Report

St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School



Congratulations to the staff, pupils and governors of St Mary's Primary School on the brilliant results achieved in the recent Ofsted and SIAMS inspections. (SIAMS - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)

The following quote gives a flavour of the type of comment made in the inspection reports;

This is a very small and welcoming church school, where the warm family atmosphere enables staff to know every pupil on an individual level. You and your staff are committed to further developing the education provided for all pupils. Leaders make constant improvements to move the school forward, with a highly engaging curriculum to meet the needs of the pupils. Aspects of the provision are outstanding, such as the breadth of the curriculum and pupils' personal development, welfare and behaviour.'

Anna Cook, Head Teacher, says, 'I would like to thank the children, staff, governors, parents and everyone in the local community who have supported the school tirelessly in helping us to achieve such fantastic reports.'

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First World War Remembered

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

A family tragedy

In this edition we remember the first of three brothers killed in France:

**Charles Henry Hughes (known as Harry), Private, 1/6th Battalion Welsh Regiment
Service number: 1264**

Killed on 6 May 1916 and buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos in the Pas de Calais. Charles Henry was born in 1890, one of eight children of Charles and Sarah Hughes. In the 1901 census Charles (senior) is recorded as being 50 years old and a widower. His wife Sarah must have died recently as the youngest child was only one year old. The children ranged in age from fifteen to one. In the census the family is recorded as living at Mynde Cottage (also known as Pickens Row) and Charles senior worked as a platelayer for the London and North Western Railway. Later the family moved to Wheatley in 1916 and finally to Llanfair House in 1918 in the centre of the village.

The family's story is especially tragic. Three of the four sons were killed in the war, the third one only two weeks before the Armistice. According to Parish Records, Charles senior did not die until June 1928 at the age of 79, so must have had to live with the tragedy of losing his three sons.

The 6th Battalion war diary for 6 May 1916 states, 'Nothing of importance happened to-day. Weather warm as usual,' yet we know that this is a significant date for Harry. The regiment was in trenches outside the town of Loos. On 30 April they had been involved in heavy fighting with considerable loss of life. As the diary relates, 'Our fellows had a rather hot time.' It is possible that Harry was killed as a result of this action and his body was not recovered, perhaps from No Man's Land, until 6 May. There were also gas attacks expected on 3-4 May, so the battalion must have been in a high state of readiness.

Harry Hughes's grave in St Patrick's Cemetery has the inscription:

*PEACE PERFECT PEACE
LOVINGLY REMEMBERED
BY HIS DAD, SISTERS, JACK AND CORBETT*

Read more about the Bucknell soldiers killed in both World Wars on the village website www.bedstoneandbucknell.org, see: 'Bucknell/Lest We Forget'

Margaret Hay Campbell

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

Please send news, articles, photographs of events, reports or other items of interest to:
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Deadline for the summer edition: **Saturday 19 June 2016**

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How about some hot homemade soup?

Spring vegetable soup with basil pesto (suitable for vegetarians with the right cheese)

Serves four people

It may be spring, but a bowl of hot soup with refreshing vegetable flavours will go down well with crusty bread at lunchtime on a chilly wet and windy day in April or May. Bring it on!

For the soup:

- One tablespoon of olive oil
- Two leeks, washed and chopped
- 100g green bean, cut into lengths
- One large courgette, diced
- 1.2l litres of hot vegetable stock
- Three vine-ripe tomatoes, deseeded and chopped
- 400g can cannellini beans
- About 35g of vermicelli (one nest).

For the pesto:

- 25g pack of basil (or fresh from your herb bed)
- One clove of garlic, crushed
- 25g pistachio nuts
- 25g Parmesan cheese (or vegetarian Parmesan if you prefer)
- Two tablespoons of olive oil.

Heat the oil, then fry the leek until its softened. Add the green beans and courgette, then pour in the stock and season to taste. Cover and simmer for five minutes.

Meanwhile, make the pesto: put the basil, garlic, nuts, Parmesan, oil and half a tablespoon of salt in a food processor, then blitz until smooth.

Stir the tomatoes, cannellini beans and vermicelli into the soup pan, then simmer for five minutes more until the vegetables are just tender. The soup and pesto can now be chilled for up to a day.

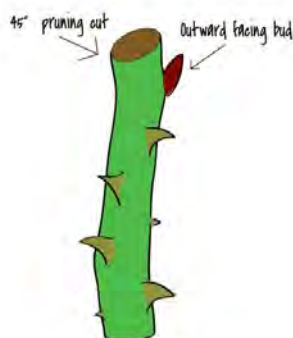


Reheat the soup (if necessary) then stir in half the pesto. Ladle into bowls and serve with the rest of the pesto spooned on top. Eat with chunks of crusty bread. Enjoy!

(Recipe inspired from *Good Food* magazine from almost a decade ago.)

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

Spring garden roundup: pruning, feeding and digging



Now spring is nearly upon us, its time to do some last-minute pruning before the plants start to wake up. Don't worry too much about seeing new growth on roses; this may get scorched by the cold, but they'll soon recover. Make sure your plants are pruned down in the spring to avoid too many woody stems remaining from the previous year. Prune with a sloping cut a few millimetres from an outward-facing bud and, of course, prune any dead branches too. It's also a good time to give roses a feed of specialised rose feed - bone meal or fish blood and bone. These are slowly released so will feed your roses throughout the growing season!

Coloured dogwoods and willows can also be pruned now as, hopefully, the stem colour has been enjoyed throughout the winter and this year's growth will provide for next winter.

Try and put off mowing your lawn until at least late March. Early cutting only encourages moss and weakens the grass. Lawn treatment for moss and weeds is usually done when they begin growing in April and May. Follow this by a good scarification of the lawn.

When the weather starts to get warmer, the garden can be dug over to heat up the soil ready for sowing or planting out. But always keep off soil if it's wet as the crumb structure can soon be ruined, making growing plants in your soil far more difficult.

Overwintered pot plants can start to be woken up in March and April by gently building up the watering. But, remember we still get cold winds and nights, so make sure they're well protected so they're not set back.

Nick and Andrew Coull, Bucknell Nurseries

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Regular Dates

Every week

Tuesday	9.00-11.30am Mothers' and Toddlers' Group	Memorial Hall	Kerry Jones (07813 788558)
Tuesday and Thursday	12.00pm Special Lunches	Sitwell Arms	Steve Pitchford (530213)
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)
Thursday	6.00-9.00pm Pie and a Pint' Night	Sitwell Arms	Steve Pitchford (530213)
Friday	6.00-9.00pm Steak and Wine Night	Sitwell Arms	Steve Pitchford (530213)
	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)	Memorial Hall	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 Wednes- day	7.00pm: Women's Institute	Memorial Hall	Carole Garland President (530951)
Last Wednesday	7.30pm Craft Group	Variable venues	Fran Turnbull (530833)



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Full set of lights - please

Driving at dusk and at night locally, I keep meeting a surprisingly large number of cars, vans, tractors and lorries heading towards me that have defective lights. Not only that, but vehicles towing trailers often have poor or no rear lights and, certainly, no indicators. What are you supposed to do, guess which way the driver intends to turn?

Apart from it being against the law to not have a full set of working lights, wouldn't it make sense to be able to see where you're going and let other drivers see you clearly too?

It's a bit of a rant on my part about poor lights, but we have garages in Bucknell, Leintwardine and Knighton that have good stocks of suitable replacement bulbs - and they're not expensive. Now it may be fiddly to replace a bulb, but surely it's worth doing?

Okay, I know that you don't always know when a light has gone out when you're driving, but is there any excuse to keep driving like that for weeks on end? It only takes a few moments to do a quick safety check before setting off on a trip, no matter how short.

John Warner

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Contact Marilyn Shepherd
Home: 01547530619
Mobile: 07969170299
Email: mal.shepherd@btinternet.com



Who's Who

Bucknell Memorial Hall Chair: Nicky Edwards (07973 563829) Vice Chair: Roger Bates (539 062) Treasurer: Dorothy Edwards (530252) Bookings: Eddie and Christine Price (530249)	Bucknell and Bedstone Good Neighbours and Community Cars Chair: Mike Starr (530179) Secretary: Dave Baker (530495) Coordinators: Sue Fairclough (530279) and Sue Percival (530040)
Bucknell Women's Institute President: Christine Price (530249) Secretary/Treasurer: Beryl Starr (530179)	RGH Car Repairs: Ralph Harris (530676)
Bucknell Walkers: Graham Jackson (530137) Website: http://bucknellwalkers.blogspot.co.uk	Bucknell Craft Group: Anita Lewis (0787 0219599)
Allotment Society: Adrian Lewis (530576)	Mothers' Union: Jean Pryke (530231)
Bucknell Book Group: Margaret Hay-Campbell (530750)	St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell Head Teacher: Anna Cook (530264) Website: www.bucknellprimaryschool.org
Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council Chair: Jonathan Kemp (530398) Vice Chair: Ian Owen (530616) Councillors: Will Davies (530207) Alan Faulkner (530547) Ian Graves (530959) Florence Hughes (530312) Christopher Savery (530282) Beryl Sharpe (530246) Beverley Stone (530455) Clerk: Nancy Adams (01686 670737) Website: www.bedstoneandbucknell.org	St Mary's Church, Bucknell - 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: www.middlemarchesbenefice.org
	Coxall Baptist Church Minister: Revd Michael Humphries (520812) Elder: Florence Hughes (530312)
	Offa's Dyke Astronomical Society Chair: Graham Arnold Secretary: Carolyn Wilde (530085)
Shropshire Council, Clun Division Councillor: Nigel Hartin (07583 962292)	Belmont Garage (Green's): Dorothy Edwards and Shirley Moorhouse (530252)
Clun Valley AED Scheme (Defibrillator): Nicky Edwards (07973 563829) and Ian Owen (07836 795444)	Community First Responders: Nicky Edwards (07973 563829) and Ian Owen (07836 795444)
Bucknell Stores: Terry Jacks (530385)	Lance Phillips Quality Butchers (530233)
The Baron at Bucknell: Debra and Phil Wright (530549)	The Sitwell Arms: Steve Pitchford and Helen Jones (530213)
B&J Davies: Will Davies (530207)	Bucknell Post Office: Klaus Steffes (530201)
Bucknell Nurseries: Andrew and Nick Coull (530606)	Member of Parliament for Ludlow: Phillip Dunne, MP (01584 872187) Email: philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk



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