



Bucknell Newsletter

**Winter 2015
No: 9**

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Bucknell Newsletter

Winter 2015

From the editor

Well, the newsletter has survived for another edition without too many hiccups, thanks to the support of a small team of volunteers and advertisers. Thank you for the positive feedback from many people locally – it was much appreciated.

I'm pleased to report that the Parish Council recently agreed to support the newsletter with a loan to help with the early-stage production costs. Income and expenditure of the autumn edition almost balanced; a couple more adverts would have ensured it broke even. There's been an increase in the demand for advertising space, which you'll notice in this edition – and also for colour! This time the books should balance.

About 500 copies of the autumn edition were distributed to homes and businesses in Bucknell, Brampton Bryan and Bedstone. Apologies to anybody who was left out. However, should you be online, copies can be downloaded from:

www.bedstoneandbucknell.org/bucknell_news.php

Delivering the newsletter was an interesting experience. Letter boxes are in so many different places — high and low. Some houses have none at all; others have mailboxes of all shapes and sizes; some have large anonymous drop-off boxes; others are difficult to push open; or simply rely on a cat-flap for deliveries. Our regular postman must know what all the different arrangements are, but for a novice like me, the variety came as a bit of a shock. Still, in addition to the walking exercise delivery provided, there was plenty of stretching and searching to keep up the interest, and we found a special tailor's workshop in Brampton Bryan!

I hope you enjoy this edition; please keep news stories coming in and may I wish you a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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

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St Mary's CE (VA) Primary School: Headteacher's Report



Autumn Term 2015

Number on role

From Monday 19 October we had 37 children on roll. One new child arrived from a Herefordshire school in Year 2. Our projected numbers for next year are 42.

Pupil progress

We're pleased with the progress our pupils made last academic year. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) profile results were very pleasing. Progress in phonics was also good. Although RAISE (Reporting and Analysis for Improvement through school Self-Evaluation) online data has not yet been published, the end of Key Stage 2 results were deemed to be outstanding by our local authority advisor.

St Mary's works collaboratively with other schools: moderating literacy and maths books with Clunbury Primary School; and evaluating marking procedures and their impact on pupil progress with Wigmore School.

Achievements of pupils and other members of the school community

The children in Key Stage 2 are keen to achieve the John Muir Award for Outdoor education. They have all really enjoyed this initiative.

Children taking part in the Explore and Discover Level of the Arts Award have now reached the end of this work and Mrs Owen will be assessing them to ensure they meet the required standard.

Children who took part in cross country did very well indeed. We were really pleased that one of our girls took first place and our Year 3 boys team was 4th. We also have one child in Year 6 who following selection from a school swimming gala competition has been swimming exceptionally well for her new swim club.

It was pleasing to learn that a child in Year 4 was shortlisted for a national writing competition. The child was invited to the Henley Writing Festival to receive her award.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We're really pleased that such a small school can provide so many extra-curricular clubs such as: Film Club; Active Sports; Art Award; Creative Writing; Spanish; Library Club; Football/Dodgeball; Craft Club; and Lego Club.

We would always like to provide more and would welcome anyone who would be willing to give up their time to run a club, subject to vetting and barring checks. We're particularly keen to start a netball club and cross country club in response to our parent questionnaire. Starting from January 2016, I will be running a Young Enterprise Club in association with the Young Enterprise organisation.

contd.

Autumn Term Visits

We've an exciting range of carefully planned visits, which usually involve staff in making pre-visits prior to the actual event. Visits are closely linked to curriculum work and are intended to give additional enrichment to the children's learning. The school contributes out of school fund to make visits affordable. We're also grateful for support provided by the Friends of St Mary's. We continue to encourage visitors into school, such as: Mr. Morris (local bee keeper); Scrap-pies (Church Stretton); church and community representatives; and Open the Book.

PE and sport

We ensure that the children have at least two hours PE each week. In the summer term this extends to four as the children go swimming. Children also have opportunities for outdoor activity through Forest School and John Muir sessions. A proportion of our sport funding is used to provide membership of the Ludlow Sports Partnership. We take the opportunity to participate in as many activities and tournaments as we can and we're hoping to resume Tag Rugby Club after half term. Mrs Morgan has been discussing the possibility of joint netball sessions with Clunbury Primary School.

Safety

The children have all had the opportunity to undertake 'Bikeability' training. We will be visited by the community police officer to discuss 'stranger-danger' next half term. Mrs Rogers has spent a number of sessions revisiting internet safety as part of work in IT. We're organising another anti-bullying workshop for next half term as a follow-up to last term's workshop. In the last week of the summer term, the whole school received railway safety training delivered by the British Transport Police.

Premises

The children now have new toilets and the school fence is nearly finished and we are all very pleased with the improvements. The climbing area has also been made safer by extending the area covered by the rubber chip flooring. New lockers for the children are planned. We're hoping our application for funding to strengthen the school roof will be successful next year.

I would like to thank all the staff, families, volunteers and governors for their continued hard work and commitment to our school – your support is very much appreciated.

Anna Cook, Headteacher, St Mary's Primary School

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What's happening

School Carol Service

St Mary's Primary School Christmas Joint Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Bucknell, on Monday 14 December at 6.30pm. All are welcome to come along to the service.

Christmas Holiday

St Mary's Primary School breaks up for Christmas holiday on Friday 18 December.

Celebrating Midwinter

Seasonal songs, winter tales and merry music – Whitton Voices led by Sue Harris at St. Michael's Church, Discoed, on Saturday 19 December at 6.30pm. Tickets £7; raising funds for Concern Universal; mince pies and hot punch included; tel: 01547 550158.

Christmas Eve Crib Service

Crib Service at St Mary's Church on Thursday 24 December, at 6.30pm followed by, for those who want to stay on, a Eucharist service.

Christmas Day Service

Christmas morning Eucharist Service at St Mary's Church on Friday 25 December, at 10.30am.

Benefice Eucharist Service

Benefice Eucharist Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 27 December, at 10.00am.

Celebrate New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve there's a party in the Memorial Hall from 7.00pm until 1.00am. There'll be live music from Bucknell's own Jack Brett and friends – a mix of songs you will know and some you may not, followed by a disco when the aim is to make sure as many of your favourite songs as possible are played. There'll also be a brief karaoke competition (earplugs provided!). Price of ticket includes a hog-roast supper with desert. Vegetarians catered for; please let us know in advance. There will be a cash bar.

So, come along and let your hair down seeing in the New Year. Tickets: £10 adult and £5 under 16; available from Belmont Garage or call: 530959, 530648 or 530381. Profits for the Memorial Hall, Air Ambulance and Community First Responders.

Fitness

Every Saturday in January at 9.30am, Xs Personal Trainer Helen Bithell will lead circuits at Bucknell Memorial Hall. From February, Helen will run an exciting new session called PiYo, which combines the muscle-sculpting, core-firming benefits of Pilates with the strength and flexibility advantages of yoga. Cranking up the speed, Helen deliver's a truly fat-burning low impact workout. (Contact Helen on 07775 520968)

Back to school

St Mary's Primary School start of new term Monday 4 January 2016.

Pop-In Café

St Mary's Pop-In Café re-opens after Christmas on Wednesday 6 January at 10.30 am.

Christingle

Christingle Family Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 10 January at 10.30am.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

The highly acclaimed production of 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Box Tale Soup will be performed at St. Mary's Primary School on Friday 15 January at 5.30pm. A perfect Christmas present, this show will enchant all ages and was one of '40 Best Edinburgh Festival Shows' listed in The Times. Book online: www.artsalive.co.uk or available from Annie Millen (530366). Tickets £8 adult, £5 child and family £25.

National Theatre Live Satellite Screenings

Held at Aston-on-Clun Village Hall: Thursday 14 January at 7.00pm 'Jane Eyre – Encore', the celebrated production by Sally Cookson; Thursday 28 January at 7.30pm, Donmar Warehouse's highly anticipated new production of 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses'; and Thursday 25 February at 7.00pm 'As You Like It', Shakespeare's glorious comedy of love and change. Book online: www.artsalive.co.uk or tel: 01588 660493. Tickets £10 adult and £6 child.

New Vicar's Licensing Service

The Revd. Annie Ballard, our new vicar for the Middle Marches Benefice, will be licensed by the Bishop of Ludlow at a special service being held at St Mary's Llanfair Waterdine on Wednesday, 20 January at 7.00pm. Everyone is warmly invited from all our communities. There'll be refreshments after the service in the nearby Everest Hall. If anyone wants to 'take a plate of food' to share, that would be most welcome. There isn't a lot of parking in Llanfair, so people may also like to car share. However, a minibus has been arranged that is leaving from just outside St Mary's Church, Bucknell. For an update on this, contact Ian Hay-Campbell (540750).

Brain Power

Pub quiz time with the quiz maestro, Gaynor Davies, at The Sitwell Arms on Friday 5 February, 8.00pm start. £5 per team of up to 5 people. Proceeds for the benefit of the children of St. Mary's Primary School.

More Music

Three times nominated in the BBC Radio Folk Awards, 'Megson' create a unique brand of folk music and are playing at Leintwardine Community Hall on Friday 5 February at 7.30pm. Tickets £12. Book online: www.artsalive.co.uk

Bucknell Show Committee

Bucknell Show 2016 committee meeting at the Bucknell Memorial Hall on Monday 16 February at 7.30pm. You're welcome to come along with ideas for the show and have your say about the forthcoming event.

Half-term Holiday

St Mary's Primary School half term 15 to 19 February.

Easter Holiday

St Mary's Primary School breaks up Thursday 24 March, back to school Monday 11 April.

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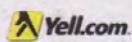
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News from Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

This is the first of a regular column about the Parish Council. You may not know very much about your parish councillors or what they do, so we hope the column will keep you in the picture about the matters that the council has been dealing with in recent meetings.

Trees

A very obvious change in the village has been the felling of trees along the Causeway and Chapel Lawn Road. I know we are all proud of our trees and value what they add to the environment, but trees can also be dangerous and, like all things, require maintenance. Where there are trees for which the Parish Council has a duty of care we seek advice from tree experts and act upon this; we never cut trees down willy-nilly. The trees that were felled had to go. You may have noticed that some replacement trees have already been planted. We have deliberately chosen trees that won't become 'a nuisance' and which in time will beautify our village.

Churchyard Steps

The Parish Council has a responsibility for the village's 'closed churchyard' around St Mary's Church. Your council tax contribution to the Parish Council (officially called the Precept) pays for mowing and upkeep of the churchyard, repair and replacement of the churchyard walls and paths. At the moment we're wrestling with what to do about the steps down onto the road nearly opposite the Post Office. The steps have become very worn over the years and are now hazardous, especially in the wet. There are also concerns about safety with regard to the gate opening almost directly onto the road. We are trying to find a solution, which will probably involve moving the steps back further into the churchyard. In the meanwhile please take care when using the steps - or take an alternative route.

Daffodil Lane Recreation Ground

The recreation ground and the new Village Hall site are currently administered by the Memorial Hall trustees. Financial problems have led to the likelihood of the Parish Council providing financial help and guidance for the upkeep of these fields. In that event a priority would be to get the changing rooms completed so that they can be used safely by all who need them. Of course, keeping the field mown and tidy, and the play equipment safe and in good condition will also be important. It seems quite possible that the costs of this will have to come from an increase in the Precept from April 2016.

These are only a selection of the issues the council has had to deal with recently. If you want to know more about the responsibilities and work of the council, see:

bedstoneandbucknell.org

Or why not come to a Parish Council meeting? These are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm – check noticeboards for venues. Each meeting starts with a chance for members of the public to ask questions and make points.

Ian Owen, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council



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General News and Views



After another successful year, The Bucknell Show Committee has confirmed the date of the next show:

Saturday 3rd September 2016

There will be an open meeting at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 16 February 2016 at 7.30pm, when we invite everyone from the village to have their say about the who/what/where's of the show. Plus, anyone who would be happy to spare some time to help with the organising can make themselves known and meet the rest of the committee.



Throughout May, June and July 2016 we'll be having three fundraising events. The usual Duck Race, A Music Night in the Village Hall and a Car Boot Sale. More information to follow. Keep an eye out for posters and fliers around the village, plus stay up to date online via our website and Facebook page:

www.thebucknellshow.co.uk facebook.com/thebucknellshow

Keep our roads safe

Bucknell has a lot of through-traffic - much of it 'a man in a van' with many calls and a tight schedule. Our own population generates a fair amount of traffic too – often under pressure to get to work, pick up the kids, meet a date, get a curry. As well as cars, vans, lorries and tractors, we have walkers – parents and school children – and cyclists. Monitoring in the village recently showed that 85% kept to the limit. ... Do the maths! There's an accident waiting to happen right here. What if we all decided to limit ourselves to 20mph in the village – because **20's Plenty**. Please think about it.

Jonathan Kemp, Chair, Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Best foot forward

Bucknell Walkers was formed on 26 March 2007 by Mike Starr. Walks are planned on a fortnightly basis, ranging in length from 5-10 miles and are on alternate Mondays. We meet at the lych gate at St Mary's Church, Bucknell, at 9.00am prompt.

There were seven members for the first few walks, but slowly our numbers have increased to 17 today, the majority of whom are retired. For 12 months in 2010 we organised a sister group that met on the in-between Mondays and was for walks of less than five miles. Unfortunately, although well attended, there was a reluctance for any of the participants to lead a walk, and so after 20 walks the group was disbanded.

contd.

Best foot forward (contd.)

We have a blog that is updated at least every two weeks and always includes the date of the next walk (see: <http://bucknellwalkers.blogspot.co.uk>). Members try to keep in contact by email and telephone, which is necessary when the weather is unpredictable. We've had weather forecasts in the past that have promised clear skies and sunshine only to find on the day that it's raining cats and dogs. Other times we've had the reverse - a dismal forecast - and yet we've woken up to sunshine. Who'd be a weather forecaster? We tend to shy away from walking in the rain, snow and ice, although we have been known to venture out in such conditions.

Naturally, there's a requirement to be able to read and interpret an Ordnance Survey map! Without such maps it can be easy to get lost very quickly and of course walking on recognised public footpaths and bridleways is a must. We do not walk just anywhere - only in places where we are legally entitled. I received a 'phone call from a gentleman several years ago who wanted to join and expressed a wish to walk right alongside the River Teme between Knighton and Bucknell. When I pointed out to him that there was no way this was possible because there were no footpaths that met his requirement, he was most upset!

We have done one or two linear walks, such as our recent one in the Elan Valley when we walked from the topmost dam to the bottom, but for the most part our walks are circular in nature. To date (end of November), we've completed 206 walks, the majority of which have been different. It has become more and more of a challenge for members to find new or different walks as the years go by.



Checking out a walk is vitally important, a fact that was brought home to me last Saturday (21 November 2015) when three of us went to check out another walk in the Elan Valley. You can read about our exploits at:

<http://bucknellwalkers.blogspot.co.uk/2015/11/walk-206a-68-miles-elan-valley-claerwen.html>

Let's just say that, even had there been no snow on the ground, the terrain was so rugged and treacherous that it was out of the question to contemplate leading our group there.

Each walk on our blog shows the Ordnance Survey map to use and the walk route can be downloaded and viewed either in Google Earth, or on a mapping program on your computer. The route is also shown on an Ordnance Survey map.

There is no formal membership of the group - you can just turn up and walk with us. However, we do expect members to lead walks (two or three times a year), which they have to check out before taking the group round on the day.

Graham Jackson (530137)

General News and Views

Call for volunteers for St Mary's Primary School

Do you have some time to spare and feel you'd like to become more involved in village life? If you think you'd enjoy working with children, how about joining our team of volunteers at St Mary's School, where help in all areas is welcomed.

Maybe you're good at craftwork, painting, science, IT or sport? Or you could consider coming into school to hear the children read.

Thankfully, even in today's digital age, reading from a book remains alive and well at St Mary's. As a volunteer 'listener' you'll see that within a few moments children are fully absorbed, and you'll learn that in a child's world some horses sleep in broom cupboards, rainbows are powered by machines, and magic keys work wonders. You can find yourself following the antics of Horrid Henry or maybe re-visiting some of your own childhood favourites, like the 'Just So' stories of Rudyard Kipling.

Volunteers who give even a little can gain a lot! If you're at all interested, I'd be happy to tell you more, or you can of course contact the school direct.

Annie Rolfe (530944) School Governor and Volunteer

Grumpy Old Men's Club

I thought it was just a rumour, but the Grumpy Old Men's Club really does exist. It meets every Tuesday evening from 9.00-11.00pm at the Baron at Bucknell. It's an informal get-together of, currently, up to 15 men of the village and the surrounds, who have a few drinks and a good chat. You're welcome to go along to express your opinions on a wide range of topics, or to just catch up with friends and their news. A splendid way to avoid Tuesday night's TV schedule.

John Warner, Editor

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Pop-In Café supports the community



The Pop-In Café, open every Wednesday from 10.30am – 12.00 noon in the church, has nearly finished its first year in operation. At a recent meeting the Café Committee decided that, as a result of a surplus in the account, we would like to offer grants to a number of local organisations. We have given grants to: Bucknell Pre-School for the purchase of seating for the reading corner in the new classroom; the Memorial Hall Committee to help with the purchase of a replacement picnic table on the Daffodil Lane recreation ground; and the group planning to put up a War Memorial

in the churchyard (see article elsewhere). We are delighted that we can support these good causes as we always envisaged that the Pop-In Café would be a community-focused project to benefit Bucknell.

The Café relies on a dedicated group of volunteers. We are always happy to hear from people who would like to be actively involved in the project. At present we would welcome offers of help on an occasional basis (eg during the holiday periods when we need extra people on duty, or to provide cover for volunteers who may be unwell, or on holiday) and also offers from those of you who could bake cakes. Please contact me for further details.

NB: There will be no Café on Wednesday 23 and 30 December. We will reopen on Wednesday 6 January 2016 at 10.30am.

Margaret Hay-Campbell (530750), on behalf of the Pop-In Café Committee

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Plan

Those of you who were resident in Bedstone or Bucknell in 2010 may remember that a questionnaire came to you asking for your opinion on a number of issues, such as amenities, areas of concern and aspirations for the community in the future. As a result of the information collected, a Parish Plan was prepared, which has been the basis of Bedstone and Bucknell's input to planning issues at Shropshire Council ever since.

Now we feel it's time to update the plan, not only to give new residents a say, but also to ensure that the wishes and ideas of everyone in our communities in 2016 are reflected. The Parish Plan will provide an agenda for action for the Parish Council, as well as making clear to Shropshire Council what Bedstone and Bucknell feel about a variety of issues.

We will, therefore, be putting out a questionnaire to everyone in our communities in spring 2016. We hope for a very high rate of return as that's the only way we can truly reflect everyone's opinions. A Parish Plan will then be written and distributed in the autumn of 2016.

We will remind everyone about the importance of the questionnaire next spring, but you can help now. If there are issues, concerns, problems and ideas that you would like to see raised in the questionnaire, please contact me and make your voice heard. Responses by the end of December would be appreciated.

e-mail: ian.graves@mac.com or tel: 530959

Ian Graves, Chair of the Parish Plan Revision Group

General News and Views

WI's busy year



This year, 2015, has been a very special for Bucknell WI as we celebrated the centenary of the Women's Institute movement. Members have been to London for the centenary meeting at the Albert Hall and a Buckingham Palace garden party. Also, this year, as well as our normal evening meetings, we have made a point of having a separate social event each month. These have included: a cruise on the River Severn; a viewing of the film 'Paddington Bear' at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, a meal at the Cider Orchard Restaurant at Herefordshire and Ludlow College in Hereford when all the food was prepared and served by catering students; and a visit to Knighton Golf Club. We are also looking forward to a shopping trip to Shrewsbury, our Christmas party and a Christmas meal.

The WI is an excellent way of meeting people in the Bucknell community. The events above are just a small sample of our activities. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall. You will be very welcome should you wish to join us.

Beryl Starr, Secretary

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First World War Remembered

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

Sergeant Joseph William Keely, 2nd Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Killed in action 17 February 1915 and commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ypres. Joseph's father was a professional soldier in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. His mother's parents lived in Bucknell Parish and on the night of the 1901 census he was staying with his grandmother at Adley Moor. Joseph followed his father into the regiment serving with it before war broke out in India. The regiment returned to the UK in January 1915 and it was only a month later that Joseph was killed on the Western Front during a skirmish on the outskirts of Ypres.

Private Robert Morgan, 3rd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment

Killed on 29 December 1915 at Elverdinghe, Ypres, Belgium, and buried at Ferme-Olivier Cemetery outside Ypres. Robert was the son of William and Emily Morgan and lived at Park View, Bucknell (1901 census). William was a railway porter. His son Robert was born about 1887 and so was 28 at the time of his death.

Robert was part of a group of men assembled in the courtyard of the Chateau Elverdinghe, prior to moving away from the front line. Suddenly two shells landed in the courtyard, creating devastation and killing 39 men and wounding 30. Shelling must have created unimaginable chaos; some of those killed were a new draft of young soldiers who had only arrived four days earlier and had not even been in the trenches. Others were old hands who had fought with the battalion for some time and had spent Christmas on the front line. We don't know whether Robert was a new arrival or a veteran of the trenches but undoubtedly all of the men were looking forward to six weeks of rest and recuperation away from the trenches.

The cemetery where Robert is buried contains three rows of graves with little space between each. Tombstones have two names on each stone, reflecting the fact this is a mass-grave site.

If you're interested in this story, you can read more about it in "With Rifle and Pick – A history of the 3rd Monmouthshire Regiment in WW I" by J and A Dixon. This gives a vivid account of the events.

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 War Memorial Appeal

Unlike many villages, Bucknell has no permanent war memorial. St Mary's Church has a simple framed list of those who gave their lives and there is a roll-of-honour wooden plaque in the Memorial Hall. In fact, the building of the Memorial Hall is the way Bucknell chose, at that time, to remember the fallen in the aftermath of the Great War.

In this centenary period of the First World War, a group of us thought it would be a fitting idea to erect a simple stone memorial in the churchyard readily visible to all — including visitors to the village. It would be situated adjacent to the path running along the south wall of the church and have inscribed on it the names of those from Bucknell (or who had close connections with the village) who lost their lives in both World Wars.

The Parish Council has already approved the idea in principle. Now, we are seeking wider support for a project likely to cost around £5,000 - £6,000. This would be for the cost of the stone, its erection and the carving.

Unfortunately, bodies like the National Lottery do not have funds available for new memorials. Therefore, we are looking for funding from people in Bucknell and from local organisations.

If you would like to support us either by making a donation now, or a pledge that you will donate in the future, please contact: Sylvia Meredith (530422) or Eddie Price (530249)

We plan to let people know about our progress in future editions of the newsletter.

Sylvia Meredith, Chairwoman, Bucknell War Memorial Fund



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How about some home baking?

Mincemeat and Apple Jalousie

Serves six people

Light and crisp puff pastry filled with your favourite delicious mincemeat and sliced apple. Serve warm with a tasty dollop of crème fraîche. Yummy!

One 350g package of frozen all-butter puff pastry

400g mincemeat

One large eating apple, peeled and thinly sliced

One tablespoon of caster sugar

Milk and Demerara sugar

Icing sugar to dust

Crème fraîche to serve

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F

Roll the pastry to a thin oblong - 6" wide and 18" long. Cut in half crosswise to give you 2 x 9" long strips. Flour one strip lightly and fold in half from both edges to the centre. Make a series of cuts through the folded edges to within 1" of the trimmed edge on both sides.



Lightly butter a sheet of parchment paper and place it on a baking tray. Lay the plain piece of puff pastry on top. Spread with mincemeat to within 3/4" of the edge all around. Place the thinly sliced apple on top and then sprinkle with caster sugar. Dampen the free edge all around with water. Open out the slashed piece of pastry and lay it on top. Seal the edges all around and crimp them together. Brush with some milk and sprinkle with Demerara sugar.

Place in the centre of the heated oven and bake for 25 to 30 minutes until well risen and nicely browned. If you think it is browning too quickly, reduce the oven temperature for the last 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from the oven. Dust with icing sugar, cut into squares, and serve warm with some crème fraîche. Enjoy!

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

Reflections about the past and concerns about the future

When I wake up in the morning in the dark, I say a silent prayer of thank you. I say thank you that I live in Bucknell with its clean air, nice people and accessible countryside all around. I say thank you that I live in Ladywell with its feeling of community. Also, I say thank you for my Mum and Dad.

Looking back

Perhaps getting older and time passing quicker is making me think back more. My Dad died just before my youngest son was born. He was the oldest of three brothers and was made to leave school as soon as it was legal at 15 to earn money for his family - even though he was very bright. He always regretted this and was keen on self-improvement through reading. He met my Mum while he did his National Service. He went to dance lessons and my Mum did demonstration dances and Dad would say that her dancing 'dazzled his eyes'. Mum decided that she would marry him as soon as she heard his infectious laughter. My Dad, as a child, saw his mother being physically abused by his father, for example, being pulled down the stairs by her hair for visiting her sister. As a result, my Dad determined to be what his father was not. Family was absolutely what was most important to him. He worshipped my mother and everything she did was wonderful.

We were poor as children but didn't realise it because our neighbours were the same. We had a square of carpet in the sitting room and lino in the other rooms. We had no vacuum cleaner and my mother did the washing by hand in the sink. She made her own bread, soup and even crisps using the peelings from the potatoes. We had a black-and-white 'tele' when I was an older teenager. There were four of us children. My Mum sewed our dresses and shirts. She went to work early in the morning cleaning offices and shops and was back in time to take us children to school. My parents were ambitious for us. My mother taught us our numbers, colours, letters and how to write our names before we went to school.

Present day

Our oldest son was the first child from either of our families to go to university, and our youngest has just gone to university too. We put from our minds how much they are going to be in debt because social mobility is important to us. Our middle son is married but they cannot afford to buy their first house, which is not unusual. Nigel and I are not well off but we are okay. I've a job I love because it feels worthwhile.

Worried about the future

Reading the Sunday papers recently, it occurs to me that there are still families who cannot afford carpets, and they don't have computers. Yet the parents work really hard, having to do unsocial shifts for very little money. They rely on working family's tax credits. I am so worried about what will happen to them in the New Year when tax credits are cut. How will they manage? What incentive is there for them to continue working?

I am asking for everyone to vote when there is an election. I don't mind if people vote the same as, or differently from, me. I just want people to think and care and vote. Being able to vote is an important British value.

Janet Hartin



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West End theatre tailor in Brampton Bryan; surely not?

One of the benefits of delivering the Bucknell Newsletter was stumbling across places that would otherwise have gone unnoticed. Just down the lane from St Barnabas's Church in Brampton Bryan are a group of barns that have been converted for commercial use. In one of the units, a father and daughter have been working away unobtrusively for over five years making theatrical costumes and traditional country clothing in a delightful workshop setting. This was definitely worth exploring more.

Dad, Mervyn Wallace, is a theatre tailor and daughter, Hannah Davies, who assists with costume making, also has her own bespoke tweed tailoring business. On a recent follow-up visit, my wife Emma and I were made very welcome by Mervyn who was keen to talk about their business, such as work being done for the English National Ballet's production of *Nutcracker* this Christmas.



Nutcracker, ENB, London Coliseum
16 Dec 2015 – 10 Jan 2016

Over mugs of freshly brewed coffee in bright, warm and truly inspirational surroundings, we chatted about how Mervyn followed a career path that has made him such

a successful and in-demand theatre tailor. The workshops he shares with Hannah are a picture in themselves: illustrations of costumes line the walls; mannequins with partially completed outfits are dotted about; colourful materials are draped strategically on pieces of furniture; a variety of industrial sewing machines sit waiting for the next garment; a log burner crackles away; and a large industrial ironing unit hisses periodically as we fall into conversation.

Over 40 years ago, Mervyn came to the UK from New Zealand as a student following a tailoring course at St Martin's School of Art in Charing Cross Road, London. On completion, he was taken on by the English National Opera (ENO) in the wardrobe department.

'My Commonwealth visa still had some time remaining on it, so I stayed on in the UK and looked for, and found, work. I met my wife at ENO and we were employed there until 1973 when we started a family. I then set up a freelance company making theatre costumes with another chap from ENO and the business just took off from there.'

In theatre, including opera and ballet, companies have 'reps' that usually stage three or four different productions a week. During a season this can amount to ten to 12 different shows made up of new work and revivals. This creates a substantial demand for a variety of different costumes and often duplicates for understudies - especially in ballet.

'Working in the wardrobe of theatre companies you get to know the designers and directors, and because the community making garments and building scenery is quite small, people move on to work on other shows, or films and in TV, so that's how we were able to build up our business,' says Mervyn. We've never advertised, and because theatre people get to know and like your work, they keep coming back. Early on, our workshops were down the road from Sadler's Wells so we were just by the West End, which was a big help.'

Eventually, Mervyn and family decided to move out of London, and after a spell operating from workshops in Norfolk and travelling to London for costume fittings, he and his wife decided to 'semi-retire' and moved to north Herefordshire. Work, however, has continued to pour in - hardly a retirement.

At this point in our visit, Mervyn pulls out some beautiful illustrations of costume designs that have been sent to him to 'translate' into patterns for costumes for Liam Scarlett's new ballet based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* due to be staged by The Royal Ballet in May 2016. In all, he is making 13 main costumes and possibly several more for minor parts.

'There's a lot of technique in making ballet costumes. We got inveigled into doing stuff for The Royal Ballet and that led up to costumes for the principals. It involves a lot of "toing-and-froing" getting things exactly right,' he says.

You often hear about divas and their demands, but most well-known names are on stage to do a job, Mervyn suggests. In the past, in the opera world he has made costumes for Plácido Domingo and many other well-known performers. He talks about addressing the idiosyncrasies of a number of interesting individuals and their need to have clothes that enable them to perform at their best.

'If you make people happy in their costumes, then all's well and they're usually very pleased. It's the performers who don't deliver the goods that tend to find fault in their costumes! But, by and large though, we've never had any trouble.'

What was intended to be a brief conversation to avoid taking up too much of Mervyn's time, turned out to be a fascinating morning, and we stayed on chatting about many aspects of ballet, opera, theatre and tailoring.

It was a revealing visit and we thank Mervyn for his warm hospitality. Clearly, delivering Bucknell Newsletters can be a very rewarding experience.

As a special Christmas treat, why not visit Ludlow Assembly Rooms for live screenings of the ENB's Nutcracker?

Dates: Wednesday 16 December at 7.15pm and Sunday 27 December at 2.00pm

Tickets: £17 adult and £8 child

John Warner

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Who do we think we were?

Bucknell village on the eve of the First World War

What was our village like in 1914? How many people lived here? What did they do? The research we've done may help to answer some of these questions and we hope that we'll give you a feeling for what our community was like at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. We have used the census taken on the night of 2 April 1911 to give us the necessary information.

(To make it more interesting, we've contrasted Bucknell in 1911 with information from the 2011 census.)

In 1911 the population of the village was 445 compared with 771 a century later (a two thirds increase). At the same time the number of households has trebled from 115 in 1911, to 343 in 2011.

Some conclusions

37.4% of the population in 1911 was under the age of 21. This contrasts with just 18% in 2011. At the other end of the age range only 8% were over 65 as compared with 30% in 2011. An interesting statistic is that nearly 10% of our current (2011) population is over 80 with the oldest in 2011 being 96 year's old and a further 13 people being 90 or over. In 1911 the oldest person was 92 and there were just two other people who were 80 or over – just 0.2% of the village population.

Have you noticed, though, that the middle group – those between 21 and 64 – is roughly comparable - 54% (224 people) in 1911 and 51% (2011)?

So the main changes come at either end of the age range.

- Family size was a contributing factor in 1911: On census night in 1911 there were 2 families of 6 children, 5 families of 5, and 8 of 4 children.
- Increased life expectancy as a result of advances in medical science is reflected in the 2011 statistics for those over 65. We are living much longer and in better health.

Birthplace of adult Bucknell residents in 1911

In the Census of 1911 it was required that all residents should list their place of birth. Surprisingly this shows that Bucknell had had a large proportion of its population born outside of the village, but most had not travelled too far. 88 residents were born in Bucknell and a further 183 were born within 30 miles, a total of 80%.

The next largest group of 42 people came from Wales, from Carmarthen to Denbigh, Bala to Monmouth. England supplied 26 people. These hailed from as far as London (the vicar and his staff), Lancashire, Birmingham, the Lake District and Somerset. One hardy soul who was employed as a chauffeur had driven up from Sussex.

To complete the nationwide mix of Bucknell folk, we had one resident from Ireland who failed to disclose his home town and a Scot from Inverness.

Steve Sherring and 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: | Margaret Hay-Campbell and loyal helpers |
| • Editor: | John Warner |

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

If you'd like to advertise in the Bucknell Newsletter, please contact John Warner.

Beautifully printed by Craven Design and Print — Contact James Sherratt, 01588 673972 or:
info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk

Deadline for the spring edition: **Saturday 20 February 2016**

Winter gardening roundup: trees, hedges and lawns

During the winter months things go rather quiet in the garden or on the plot, but there are still jobs to be done. It's a good time to trim back hedges, and prune apple and pear trees to encourage new growth once the weather warms up. It's also a good time to plant hedges and trees of all varieties.

Locally this year, people have said that 'bitter pit' has been causing a problem with apple trees. Bitter pit is a common disorder that causes dark spots on apples late in the season or when they're stored. It's usually due to lack of calcium in the fruit and is often as a result of dry soil conditions. As the name suggests, it can make apples taste bitter or, when really a bad case, make them inedible. Ensuring good irrigation during really dry weather and dressing the ground around the tree's trunk with lime will help treat the disorder.



To keep fruit trees in tip-top condition, it's an idea to apply winter tree wash while they're dormant. This kills off insects and their eggs, and is available from garden centres and nurseries.

(We've some in stock.)

A word of warning; January, February and March are not good months to prune plum, apricot and cherry trees (fruit with stones). Pruning encourages silver leaf, a fungal disease that infects the wood through wounds made by cutting branches and causes a silvering of the leaves, followed by death of the branch. Leave pruning of fruit trees like these until the sap rises in late spring.

Look after lawns by gently raking out dead material but don't fuss too much about fallen leaves. If left, worms will do the work for you over the winter by gradually pulling the leaves into the ground. It's nature's way of fertilising your grass. There is an exception. If your lawn is thickly covered with leaves, it's a good idea to remove the worst of them to let the grass get some light; otherwise it's likely to turn yellow.

Keep the grass quite long for the winter as this will help provide the roots with some insulation from the frost. Also, avoid muddy patches and skid marks from mowing in damp conditions. Now is probably the best time to have the mower serviced ready for the next growing season.

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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)

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 Wednesday	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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