


# **BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER**

**FREE ISSUE**

**Winter 2018-19**

**No. 20**



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# BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2018-19

### From the Editor / Treasurer

Hello folks and welcome to the final edition for this year .... where has 2018 gone? Scary!

In this issue we're including on pages 8 and 9 an **advertisement feature** for Richard de Meester, furniture restorer, which I hope will be the first of a series for our business advertisers. The article was written by former newsletter editor John Warner and I'm hoping all our local businesses out there will consider compiling their own advertisement feature for free inclusion sometime. All we ask is that your feature should include a brief history of your business and the services you offer your customers and importantly it must include a pre-paid advertisement as well. It can extend to a maximum of two consecutive pages (including your advertisement), and there can only be one advertisement feature per edition - so businesses get your advertisement feature to me ASAP and approved features will be included on a first come basis at no additional cost.

A personal **thank you** to the wonderful people in our village who have helped me, offered help or wished me well during my recuperation following hip replacement surgery. It's at times like this the wonders of community spirit really come to the fore.

Thanks too to the lovely advertisers who keep the newsletter going and if you would like to advertise as well, not just to promote your business but to support this community newsletter in the process, then details of advertisement sizes and prices can be found on page 42 of this edition. Best wishes.

*Beverley* - [beverley2019@gmail.com](mailto:beverley2019@gmail.com) or telephone: 07484 280259

### Index

4-5	What's Happening?	27	River Redlake Maintenance
5	Advertised Services at a glance	29	The Revd. Annie Ballard *
8-9	Advertisement feature *	30	The Bucknell W.I. *
10	Rotary Club monthly reports *	30	My Trip to York * 
12	Shropshire Parish Paths Partnership *	31	Free Personal Ads.
14	Regular Dates *	32	Enterprise South West Shropshire *
16-17	Community News & Views * 	33-36	Business Cards
19-20	To Scottish Friends by Train *	39	Bucknell Allotment Association *
21-23	Bucknell Show 2018 gallery *	39	West Mercia Police contact details *
23	Recycling your latest newsletter	41	Who's Who?
25-26	Thank You For Bucknell *	42	The Bucknell Newsletter page

\* Indicates contributors' articles. Front cover: Bucknell - River Redlake and Causeway in early 2018



# What's Happening?

*"Please keep me informed of forthcoming events so that I can include them here in future editions".*

<b>St. Mary's School, Bucknell</b>	
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	The children will all be making a selection of <b>Christmas crafts</b> and the school welcomes supervisory help with this from anyone who likes art and crafts so that the children can work in smaller groups.
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	There will be an <b>Advent Fayre</b> in school. This usually makes some money for school funds and it also encourages the children to develop some business skills as they manage the stalls by taking money, giving change and by designing competitions.
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	There will be a school <b>Carol concert</b> at 6:30pm to which anyone is welcome to attend. Venue to be confirmed.
Further information available from: Janet Martin on 07980 184 365	

<b>Knucklas Ladies Guild ~ Early 2019</b>	
3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. Generally talks with Tea / Coffee / Raffle	
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jordan</b> - Slideshow and talk by Laura Woodside-Jones.
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Lingen Stitchers</b> - Needlecraft and more?
<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Outing to Llandovery</b> - Day trip by train on the Heart of Wales line.
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Aardvark Books</b> - An evening trip to browse the books plus tea / biscuits
Community Centre Main Hall, Glyndwr, Knucklas, Knighton, Powys LD7 1RR Contact Maggie 01547 528358 or Margaret 01547 529155 for details <b>New members always welcome.</b> Talk subjects can change without advanced notice.	

<b>Bedstone and Hopton Castle Village Hall ~ 2018 / 2019</b>	
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Flicks in the Sticks</b> - 7.30 pm. 'MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.... FALLOUT', the latest in the series of MI films. Brilliantly exciting!
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Live Music</b> event in the Village Hall. Telephone Margi for details.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	We will be taking part in the <b>2019 Borderlines Film Festival</b> so look out for posters for details or email <a href="mailto:bedstonehoptoncastlevh@hotmail.co.uk">bedstonehoptoncastlevh@hotmail.co.uk</a> to go on our mailing list.
Times and additional information from: Margi Savery on (01547) 530 282	

## The 100 Club ~ Bucknell

The 100 Club for the New Memorial Hall was originally started in 2006. We started with well over 120 tickets sold and this has been very successful over many years, unfortunately numbers have dwindled over time and we would like to ask for your support in helping us achieve our dream of one day being able to build a New Memorial Hall. Tickets for 1 year are £10.00, you select a number and this is drawn monthly, normally at The Parish Council meetings where 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes are drawn. Over the last 12 months we have had to reduce the winnings due to not selling as many tickets. If we can increase the number we sell then the prize money will once again increase with a 1st prize going up to £25.00. Tickets can be purchased from Greens Garage or any member of the Memorial Hall Committee. We hope you will be able to support us. Many Thanks. Nicola Edwards - Chair

## Bucknell ~ Early 2019

**The Sultana Brothers** are back for another night of the songs and hits you love. **Date:** 16th March 2019. **Venue:** Bucknell Memorial Hall. **Tickets:** £10 on the night, £9 in advance, £5 for children. **Licenced bar.** All profits to Bucknell charities. **Contact** Roger Bates on 01547 530062

## Advertised Services at a glance with page nos.

Schooling	<b>2 &amp; 44</b>
Legal services / Hair and beauty	<b>6</b>
Home care / Domestic appliances and Calor gas stockist	<b>7</b>
Home furniture repairs and restoration (Advertisement feature)	<b>8-9</b>
Memorials and monumental specialist / Specialist tree surgery	<b>11</b>
Tree care / Domestic heating oil	<b>13</b>
General builder / Commercial property letting	<b>15</b>
Computer servicing and repairs / Electrician	<b>18</b>
Fencing, firewood, plants, general landscaping / Building & renovation work	<b>24</b>
Guttering and pathway cleaning, garden maintenance	<b>28</b>
Bucknell Neighbourhood Watch / Bespoke soft furnishings and alterations	<b>28</b>
Personal advertisements / Bookery, café, exhibitions and family events	<b>31</b>
Cattery / Furniture restoration and Upcycling / Garage and shop	<b>33</b>
Mechanical equipment services / Dog grooming / Chiropody	<b>34</b>
Car repairs / Vehicle hire / Lion boilers and bathrooms	<b>35</b>
Plumbing and heating / Cycles sales, repairs & accessories / Unisex hairdressing	<b>36</b>
Pony trekking and self-catering caravan holidays	<b>37</b>
Bar, restaurant and accommodation	<b>38</b>
Architectural services / Funeral services	<b>40</b>
Self-catering accommodation in Bucknell / Graphic design and printing	<b>43</b>

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## RICHARD AND SUE DE MEESTER

### Secluded premises

Easily missed as you drive away from Bucknell along leafy Oil Mill Lane - Millionaire's Row as some locals call it - there's a partially hidden rustic wooden sign in the bushes on the right, not far from the turn down to Parson's Pole Bridge and Brampton Bryan. The sign simply says. 'Upholstery', which is the only clue to the location of a thriving upholstery and furniture restoration business that is based in an old building on an oxbow bend in the River Teme. The upholstery business is run by Sue and Richard de Meester (07811 100694) who have a workshop in the former oil mill - part of the Harley Estate.

### Background in restoration

Richard is a business graduate who came to England from Holland and has had a varied career having lived and worked in Hull, York, Ludlow and finally north Herefordshire. In the past, his work has included being the landlord of a pub, running a landscape gardening business, and working in panelling and antique furniture and clock restoration for 15 years in Ludlow. He remembers fondly working on longcase clocks that were from the Royal Courts of Justice in London and from the Houses of Parliament.

As time went by, Richard and Sue decided that they wanted to settle in the countryside away from it all. To achieve this, Richard trained as an upholsterer as this would form the basis of an ideal rural business. Together, with Sue's skills in sewing cushions and upholstery panels, they began their business eight years ago at their mill workshop.



### Chairs needing a makeover

I first became acquainted with Richard and Sue while delivering copies of the Bucknell Newsletter in the Brampton Bryan area and, after chatting, they very kindly agreed to run adverts in the newsletter. I was impressed with the upholstery and restoration work that was being undertaken and resolved to use their services if ever a need arose. Many months later, my wife Emma and I decided to investigate reupholstering two sturdily constructed old wingback armchairs that Emma had acquired from distant relatives in Birmingham.

As a guide for Richard, we photographed the chairs from above and below – to show the original Second World War 'utility' furniture labels, dating their manufacture to 1941.



Pictures were sent off, a price for the work was agreed, we chose and sourced suitable fabric (Harris Tweed) and in due course, Richard came to pick up the chairs from where we live in Worcester city centre. Several weeks went by, with updates from Richard on progress.

### **Building with a past**

At the beginning of August, on a bright sunny day, it was time to drive to Brampton Bryan to collect the transformed chairs, but first, Richard showed me around the remains of the old mill. The mill is said to pre-date Cromwellian times and was used in the production of linseed oil made from locally grown flax. Clearly seen running alongside the southern end of the building is the mill race that channelled the water which turned a waterwheel. Sadly, the waterwheel has vanished and the mill mechanism is long since gone from inside the building.

### **Restored to perfection**

The chairs were stunning; a light restoration of the woodwork had been carried out and a discrete French Polish had brought up the arms and legs of each chair so that they had not lost any of the old patina. The original studs holding the fabric had been replaced and piping around the seams in the 'heather' tweed upholstery was a great finishing touch. All in all, an excellent job and two old and somewhat tatty chairs have been transformed into a pair of inviting pieces of furniture that take pride of place in our living room. Our cat, Jake, instantly made himself at home on one of them. Richard tells me;

"As well as doing work locally, we're commissioned by interior decorators in London, have projects from second-home owners in the region and, occasionally, have work from some of England's grand houses. We re-upholster all kinds of furniture items and might be asked to make a chair to match another one to form a pair, copy sofas, create bed headboards, or tackle an antique chaise lounge or two. We even have one customer who brings in the pilot seat from his plane once a year for a makeover. In making anything from scratch, we have Max and Terry in Brampton Bryan who help with the construction; we like to keep things local".

Do you have furniture that deserves a new lease of life? Why not contact Richard and Sue and see what they can do for you? I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

#### **Richard de Meester**

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John Warner - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018



## Monthly Reports for 2018 by Cathy Jones

**SEPTEMBER** was another enjoyably busy month with a nice mix of social and Rotary based events. We started the month with a visit by Lee Bryan who helps to run the Knighton Junior Football under 8's team. We were delighted to be able to donate money towards the purchase of a kit for the team which, as Lee said, will instil pride in the youngsters and cohesion within the group. Providing support for youngsters is one of the goals of Rotary and in that regard we were pleased to hear from Adam Hunt at the end of the month who attended a Rotary Youth Leadership Award course, sponsored by our Club, in the Brecon Beacons. Adam benefitted hugely from this outward bound type course and we were proud to be able to support him. We aim to sponsor two students per year so watch this space. We also had two social events last month to further bond our members together but remember that we pay for social events and for the running of the club so that all funds we raise go to the charities and good causes we support.

**OCTOBER** was a busy and productive month with money raised for a number of charities through three well supported events. In the middle of October we held a collection for the Sulawesi disaster at the community markets of Knighton and Presteigne. The generosity of those who donated means that over £400 will go to Rotary's efforts to aid the long term recovery of the devastated region. That weekend we also manned car parking at a local car rally event, raising money for the Breast Cancer Haven in Hereford and for the local good causes that we support.

**World Polio Day:** On Saturday October 27th the Knighton and District Rotary Club celebrated the progress in the fight against polio by holding stalls at the Knighton Community Market and in Brookside Square in Knighton with the help of Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS) sufferer Betty Johnson. Betty, the widow of past Knighton Mayor Trevor Johnson, contracted polio in the 1950's and is still suffering its consequences and we hope Betty will come to speak to us at our Rotary Club early next year. This initiative was to support the 6th annual World Polio Day held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October which was streamed live from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA and brought together many organisations including the Bill Gates Foundation which work towards the eradication of polio. On our stalls we explained Rotary's involvement in the battle against this disease in Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan and why it is essential to fight against this debilitating condition until the world is free of polio. PPS is a condition that affects a number of those people who contracted polio at a young age and causes pain and weakness in the muscles and nerves damaged by the polio virus. The consequences of the polio virus are devastating across the world, both in the past and in the present day and supporting the eradication programme across the world is essential to ensure it never comes back. We are nearly there. Read more at [www.endpolionow.org](http://www.endpolionow.org)

**Please remember** that all the money we raise goes to our chosen charities as our running costs are covered by a membership fee. You can read more on our website "Knighton Rotary" and on twitter @knightonrotary. If you would like to get involved in our social and fundraising activities, as well as make new friends, you are very welcome to come to any of our Wednesday meetings. For more details please contact members Norman Thorp 01547 529666, Cathy Jones 07813 733240 or search for "Knighton Rotary Club" on Google, Facebook and Twitter.

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Helen Beresford from Shropshire CC is willing to come to Bucknell to meet those who may be prepared to help in some way. You can contact me if you'd like to help maintain our public footpaths or contact Helen directly ~ *Editor*



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## REGULAR DATES

	Days	Event	Venue & Time	Contact
WEEKLY	Monday	Bedstone Art Group	Bedstone Village Hall 10:30 - 13:00	Celia Keane 01547 530397
	Tuesday	Mothers' and Toddlers' Group	Bucknell Memorial Hall 09:00 - 11:30	Leanne Lewis 07869 470684
	Tuesday	Bucknell Ukulele Group	Variable venues at 2:30pm	Geri Jackson 01547 530137
	Tuesday	PiYo Club	St. Marys School Hall 19:30 - 20:10	Helen Bithell 07775 520968
	Tuesday	Grumpy Old Men's Club	The Baron at Bucknell 21:00 - 23:00	Just turn up!
	Wednesday	Pop In Café Bucknell	St. Marys Church 10:30 - 12:00	Sue Fenlon 01547 530105
	Friday	Modern Line Dancing	Bucknell Memorial Hall 09:30 - 10:30	Christine Price 01547 530249
	Friday	Bingo	Bucknell Memorial Hall 19:45	Dorothy Edwards 01547 530252
	Saturday	Indoor Circuit Training	Bucknell Memorial Hall 09:30	Helen Bithell 07775 520968
FORTNIGHTLY	Monday	Bucknell Walkers	Lych Gate St. Marys Church 09:00 - sharp!	Mike Starr 01547 530179
	Wednesday	Mobile Library Service	Belmont Garage end of the Causeway 14:05 - 14:25	Shropshire Library Service 01743 255024
	Thursday	Skittles (Sept - May) Boules (June - Aug)	Memorial Hall or The Baron at Bucknell 19:30	Sylvia & Derek Meredith 01547 530422
MONTHLY	Last Monday	Bucknell Book Group	Variable venues	Bridget Thomas 01568 770165
	First Tuesday	Mothers Union	Variable venues during winter months	Iris Greaves 01547 530152 and Jean Pryke 01547 540376
	Second Tuesday	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council	Variable venues - see parish notice boards 19:30	Jonathan Kemp Chairman 01547 530398
	Third Wednesday	Women's Institute	Bucknell Memorial Hall	Christine Price WI President 01547 530249
	Last Wednesday	Craft Group	Variable venues	Fran Turnbull 01547 530833



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## 2018 AWARDS - see photographs on opposite page

### 2018 Boule Champion

1. Derek Meredith is the 2018 Boule Champion for the most wins this season. He became the winner on Thursday 30th August.

Sylvia Meredith - 12th September 2018

### Queen's Award for Local Charity

2. Two local residents contribute towards a local charity receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary service, which is considered the equivalent of the MBE for volunteer groups. Eleven years ago the charity Caring for God's Acre set up the Churchyard Task Team to undertake practical conservation work across South Shropshire and Herefordshire. Since then the team has gone from strength to strength and has undertaken an amazing 30,000 hours of conservation work in local burial grounds. Martin Garland (pictured right) has been a volunteer since the early days and is their longest serving volunteer. Colin Cummings (left) joined the team a little while later when his retirement gave him the time to attend on a more regular basis. Conservation of burial grounds is about active management, not neglect.

The work of the volunteers has transformed many sites, leaving them better managed, with increased value to wildlife whilst looking more attractive to visitors. Their tasks are many and varied, from cutting back overgrown scrub in neglected corners to scything, hedge laying and dry stone walling repairs. The aim is always to create a habitat that is wildlife and wildflower friendly. The venues are varied too, but they are often in remote areas where the local residents are no longer able to do the work themselves. If you are interested in finding out more about what goes on, take a look at [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)

Carole Garland — 17th October 2018

### 2018 Long-Service Poppy Collections

3. (L-R) Kent Tomey at the presentation of long service awards for Poppy Appeal collectors. Brian Wallace (10 years), Pat Swain (40 years), Bryan Whittall (35 years)  
Presentation by Royal British Legion president John Yeoward.

Article reproduction by kind permission from the Clun Chronicle - July 2018

1



2



3



*See page 30 as well  
for a school trip article  
by Seth Pearson*



## 'STREET PARTY'



Thank you to all who came to the 'Street Party' at the Memorial Hall today. A great turnout in traditional village spirit with tasty food and drinks.

A coming together to celebrate a very poignant moment in time, the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Shelly Stark - 10<sup>th</sup> November

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## *To Scottish Friends by Train*

Here we are again monitoring the punctuality of our railways, this time with the 14:35 Swansea to Shrewsbury train which departed Bucknell not a minute late.

It was soon clear that punctuality on the railway line is not an exact science, as the 19:25 from Crewe arrived at Euston ninety minutes late. Somewhere on the way to Stafford a freight train had broken down causing a diversion through Stoke-on-Trent (all five towns I think). Once back on the main line, a signal failure at Milton Keynes caused a tail-back of high-speed trains which then shuffled along in a way that made us think the signals had been replaced by men with red flags. The funny thing about that journey was that I could have sworn we went through Stafford twice. The train could have been going around in a circle on the basis that passenger satisfaction is more easily obtained when moving rather than stationary. I may have been dreaming but these three hours were spent in supreme comfort and it begs the question whether punctuality and comfort are ill-wedded companions. Commuters on the early morning trains from Robertsbridge to Charing Cross would say they are not companions at all. They do not exist.

This theory was disproved the very next day with another seven-hour journey but this time over three times the distance. The 10:00 Kings Cross to Aberdeen train arrived on time at 17:00. An acceptable Finnan haddock was served for lunch at my seat (dining cars are obsolete). It cost £48.00 but this included a drinkable Merlot and a seat on the train in First Class. Thus it is still possible for the three basic elements of travel – food, comfort and speed to co-exist.

There was a charming interlude at Willesden Junction. A young looking grandfather escorted by his three grand-daughters each with a scooter, (the grand-daughters, not the grandfather), had emerged from the same Clapham Junction to Stratford over-ground as myself and was taking them to the park. After exchanging details of destinations, he remarked that he liked my 'ensemble'. This was my working rig and consisted of moleskin trousers tucked into my socks above walking boots, a Barber jacket over a Viyella shirt, woollen tie with Queen Mary pin, and an Austrian hat with feather. We were 'ships in the night'.

After that Aberdeen seemed far away. The Granite City is an oily as well as a fishy place. The North Sea oil rig servicing ships are floating leviathans bristling with power. My old friend Bert Sturgeon, whose widow Ruth came to supper and who was the City Assessor, had a high old time valuing the Docks. To increase the revenues of the City it was said that he thought of including the Norwegian oil rigs in the Valuation Roll on the basis that they were connected to the City by pipelines.

Next day Archie and Amelia Dunbar came to lunch at the Mansion House in Elgin. He has a fine train-set in the roof space of the Old Manse but arthritis prevents him from getting up there. When he heard I was on the way to Thurso he said there were no trees up there and that Caithness is different from the rest of Scotland. How right he was. After the Mansion House - an oasis of gentility and tradition - the Golf View at Nairn is rather brash.

Like the ski resorts of the Cairngorms it is populated by indifferently dressed characters who are experts at their sport, in this case, not skiing but golf, which Mark Twain said was a good walk spoiled.

*Continues overleaf ...*

Nevertheless as I walked along the path between the links and the sea towards Ardesier, I envied the chaps with their clubs and laughter. Any of those Scottish links - from Turnberry to Troon, Golspie to Gullane - could create an addiction to golf. And the idea of hitting a stationary ball should appeal to everyone - not just those with one eye. The Fife coast is too far to hit the ball but its view across the Moray Firth is one of the attractions of the hotel, where forty nine and a half years ago I had my first attack of hay fever. But I forget which room I was in.

I had already accomplished four of the most scenic journeys on our railway network - Berwick on Tweed to Dunbar, Haymarket to Kirkcaldy (over the Forth Bridge), Leuchars to Dundee (over the Tay Bridge), and Broughty Ferry to Montrose. I was now to achieve a fifth, Inverness to Thurso. This one is not for those in a hurry. It takes nearly four hours to do 110 miles because the train stops at 22 stations and the track, built about 150 years ago, zig-zags up the coast crossing the rivers nearer to their sources than the estuaries. It finally leaves the coast at Helmsdale and follows the river along the Strath of Kildonnan - not to be missed even in driving rain. The A9 by contrast hugs the coast, crossing the estuaries by feats of engineering with which only Stephenson or Brunel could have competed. So the return journey by road took three hours and was a lot less comfortable. You cannot stretch your legs on a bus, nor can you witness, as I did, a riotous drinks party by twenty kilted Scots who boarded the train at Tain and for all I know never left it.

Georgemas is our most northerly junction. The Old Man of Hoy at the extreme south-western corner of Orkney can easily be seen from Thurso. It looks like a gigantic flight of steps. The ferry to Stromness takes an hour and a half from Scrabster but there is a fast one from John O'Groats. I opted for a walk to Holborn Head, then along a sheep track to the Ness of Litter and back along the hypotenuse to Scrabster where the smoked haddock at the Inn is as good as the crab. At last I begin to feel well.

Being so close to Orkney the Tourist Enquiry Office at Thurso has a lot of material on Scapa Flow, including sizeable paper backs on the sinking of the Royal Oak (when a U-boat got into Scapa) and the scuttling of the German fleet there 21 years earlier. An odd thing about the County of Caithness is that it has a KW post code. This is short for Kirkwall, but I was disappointed to find the letters posted on the mainland do not go to Orkney to be sorted. Although the Post Office relies heavily on sea transport up here and in the Western Isles, and I had been pleased to see a Royal Mail express in crimson livery thundering through Crewe on its way to the North. Not everything goes by road.

30<sup>th</sup> July was the day for travelling from Scotland to Wales. I crammed a haggis into my kit bag before leaving Inverness on the 07:55 to Kings Cross. Less scenic than the northward journey but the rising sun cast an amazing shadow of the viaduct across the valley of the river Nairn. No delays this time and the 17:15 Paddington to Carmarthen had to slow down past Llanelli to avoid being early. That leg of the journey which takes four hours is performed by First Great Western. The budget airline style seats are too close together for comfort but the hot bacon baguettes make it all worthwhile even at £4.00 each. What is not generally known is that after Cardiff they reduce the price to £2.70. Rail travel is still full of surprises.

Christopher Price - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

# THE BUCKNELL SHOW 2018

Just some of the images from what was a  
very well organised and attended show.





Many more pictures of the show are available on the Bucknell Shropshire Facebook pages.







## RECYCLING YOUR WINTER 2018 BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER

If you've read your **latest** copy of the newsletter and **do not** wish to keep it, please recycle it by either passing it on to a friend or relative who's not a resident of the parish, or return it to me so that I can redistribute it to a neighbouring town or village for others to read. Just leave it at Belmont Garage and I will collect it from there.



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## *Thank you for Bucknell by Janet Hartin*

It is half-term while I am writing this - whoopee, hurrah! I love my job – it is one of the many things I say thank you for when I am awake at night (something to do with the menopause). I always tell my boys - we live to work, not work to live, but joyous though it is (just look at the children we produce in Bucknell - so kind and thoughtful) it is still very tiring, the attention and concentration needed to keep them safe and input the skills and knowledge into them. It is good to have this time to step back and reflect. I love living in Bucknell and I really like our Facebook pages. I like the way people alert everyone else about road problems, sheep on the road, lost cats, found dogs, events that are on.

When Nigel hurt his back in September, I put a message on our Bucknell Facebook page for help and I had offers from many people to take him to the doctor's surgery. One neighbour offered pain killer tablets, another brought around pain relief patches and a colleague brought in heat pads. I was very grateful for everyone's concern.

Nigel and I have lived in many different places during our life together: Hereford, Cardigan, Ross-on-Wye, Cheltenham, Northamptonshire, Tenbury Wells but Bucknell has been the place where we have put down roots and the best place to raise our children.

We loved taking the boys for walks into the woods, up and down hill. We loved paddling in our little river, collecting stones, trying to build dams against the water flow, trying and mostly failing to catch fish. We went collecting blackberries and hazelnuts, collecting sticks to make bows and arrows. We should celebrate the facilities we still have in Bucknell.

We have two pubs that both serve good meals. We still have a Post Office. We actually have three playgrounds for the children. We have a football field and the Memorial Hall for parties and socialising. We have a butcher selling vegetables as well as good quality meat. We have a village shop that's been so beautifully re-fitted. We have a petrol station with Dorothy and Shirley who are so knowledgeable and helpful. We have Ralph and Neil who so many of us rely on when our cars suddenly go wrong. We even have a garden centre close at hand selling healthy, reasonably priced plants. We still have bus and train services and good internet provision. What an amazing amount of resources in one small village. Best of all, we have our village school.

I was at the School Leavers' service in St. Mary's Church on the last day of the summer term; it was beautiful and emotional. Chatting to other people in the congregation / audience afterwards, we reflected how lovely the children in St. Mary's school are. We raise wonderful children in Bucknell. They are very sweet and kind, not obsessed by material goods or by fashionable brands. Living in Ladywell, I really enjoy seeing the children playing out, getting fresh air and exercise and just hanging out with friends. I sometimes hear on the news concerns about the nation's children, how they spend all their free time indoors, addicted to smart phones or other electronic devices, getting obese and becoming more unfit than their parents. The children in Bucknell seem to have such an idyllic childhood, playing out with some of the parents standing nearby watching over everyone's children.

*Continued overleaf ...*

Of course, sometimes the children complain that they are bored, but some boredom is important for brain development. We are lucky having a small village school. We moved to Bucknell despite not particularly liking the house we bought but the school had such a welcoming, accepting feel that we moved here anyway, and the school is still the same today. All of the staff know each of the children so well. The pupils get more attention from the teachers; the teaching is well-tailored to the children. All the staff put in many extra hours so that the pupils can achieve the best that they are capable of. The children do well in SAT's tests, so much so that Wigmore Secondary School is keen to have St. Mary's as a feeder school. The school is not just focussed on academic results; the pupils also enjoy educational visits and taking part in musical events and sport competitions.

I enjoy going to St. Mary's Church; it feels welcoming. There are not many of us worshipping. Sometimes I am confused about what time the service is on, or what form of service it will be, or where to find the psalm in the book of common prayer, but when I am there it feels absolutely the right place to be.

Have you ever looked at a compass, looked at the needle whizzing around trying to decide which direction is north? Sometimes I feel that I am that compass needle, trying to decide which task is most important, there are so many things to consider. When I am in church, in the quiet, waiting for the service to begin, my compass needle calms down and for a few minutes I stop thinking about the mundane, I think about God. I stop worrying about not having polished the bedrooms or moved the settee to vacuum behind it or the paperwork that is always waiting. I say thank you for the many things that I am grateful for.

Life is full of ups and downs. I know of people in this community who are seriously ill now, wonderful people who we care about. There are tears in my eyes as I think about them, hoping for miracles.

When we lost our baby daughter I gave in to grief and just cried uncontrollably for a long time. I remember spending time at her grave just wishing I could die to be with her; it felt so wrong for a parent to die before her child. Luckily I had two sons who needed me and recalled me to life. Nigel was brave and suppressed his feelings and supported the rest of us. We know now that it is not good to suppress our feelings. He got depression and lost his job and we lost our house. We had negative equity and were in debt for many years. Where would we be if we had not lived in Bucknell? We were lucky enough to be given a Housing Association house. If we lived somewhere else we could have ended up on the streets and our boys taken into care. That is why I support charities that help the homeless – it could have been me. I also give to the people selling the Big Issue. It might or might not be true that the young lady has her mother, seven siblings and two children to support and rent to pay on a house in Birmingham, but I know that I am more fortunate. I live in the wonderful village of Bucknell.

It is not the architecture or the natural beauty or the facilities; it is the people. So I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to friends and neighbours. I don't remember to say it often enough but you are precious to me.

Janet Martin - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## River Redlake Maintenance



During September the Environment Agency arranged for silt removal to take place beneath the bridges adjacent to Belmont Garage and opposite the Post Office using different methods. Above a small excavator, dumper and a grab lorry were used to shift a substantial amount of vegetation and gravel to 100mm above the water level to maintain protection to

the water main and to minimise further erosion of the left bank, whereas a suction tanker (pictured left) was used to remove silt beneath the bridge near to the Post Office.



And not a minute too soon it seems as shown in the water level (photographed right) following the wet weather of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October.



Editor ~ 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### Advertising in the Bucknell Newsletter

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The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has been resurrected by volunteers to help keep our community safe by messaging residents who have signed up to receive alerts. Window stickers will be issued in due course for residents in Bucknell to display at the front of their properties to warn off any potential thieves or cold-callers. Please help to make this initiative successful by signing up for alerts and by displaying the stickers in your windows or on doors. Editor



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## *From the Vicarage ~ Revd. Annie Ballard*

So Christmas is upon us!

The Remembrance "Celebrations" are still rushing round my head. Everywhere people rallied round in an amazing way. At Bucknell the Church was packed in spite of the fact that the main players gather elsewhere. In all of our villages so many people made the effort to come together. The different displays around the community and ways of remembering brought the message home to people of all ages and I wonder if the special response may be due to the uncertainties around us at the moment? I hope the words we said will stay in our imaginations, reminding us of the continuing need to work together to keep and build on the relative peace we still enjoy here.

The two sides of those ceremonies: the Act of Remembrance and the Act of Commitment lead well into our preparations for Christmas and New Year. In Advent we work through the muddy darkness and ask: "How long, O Lord? How long?" echoing those of old who longed for someone to lead them out of their world's mess. Then at Christmas we welcome the One presented as The Hope for the world in its confusion, quarrels, misunderstandings, injustices and self-centred disinterest. We hear Jesus billed as Prince of Peace, coming to show us the ways of Love as He listens to people on the margins, works with truth, looks out for the most vulnerable, offers unlimited forgiveness, shows care to enemy and stranger as well as neighbour and friend and then asks us to do the same! He was a great disappointment to those who were looking for a strong leader who would lead them to freedom in powerful and spectacular ways. When challenged, his answer was "The Kingdom of God is among you".

As I stood among the crowds on Remembrance Sunday, I was reminded of that saying. We may feel helpless in the face of the huge world problems and ask for leaders who will make peace, but the heart of the answer is among us: we are the greatest resource. If Jesus came today he would look around and say, "There you are, see what an amazing varied, gifted bunch you are - learn how to make it work!" And on a good day we get it and do!

Meanwhile, the Christmas Card for our seven Churches is enclosed. In Bucknell this year we will have a gigantic School and Community Carol Service. It will be a crush, but wonderful! Our Crib Service on Christmas Eve is now "Set in Stone" ... please come as Shepherds or Angels ... and look out for the signs around the village to bring with you. On Christmas Day I will be doing the services at this end of the Benefice for the first time!: Chapel Lawn at 9:30am and 11:00am at Bucknell (very family friendly!)

I love Christmas with all its colour and joy but in the middle of all the noise, let's remember to look out for the signs of the One known as Prince of Peace and ask ourselves how we can build on his gifts of life, hope, love, generosity and joy, among us.

Happy Christmas and may you know His Blessing as we move into a new Year!

*With love and prayers from Annie and Red*

See page 41 for Annie's contact details in the Who's Who

Revd. Annie Ballard - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018



How quickly the year has gone and we have arrived in November and our A.G.M. Attendance this year has been good, just a dip into the holiday months and we have enjoyed interesting talks and demonstrations. In September we tried our skills at making a spectacle case and amazed ourselves just how creative we really were. October saw something quite different when we were introduced to belly dancing with some of us proving to be far more

agile than others but whatever the level of ability we had a fun night. Also in October we tried out our modelling skills when we organized a fashion show in conjunction with M&Co. at their Ludlow store. Ten of our ladies acted as models and proved to be very professional as they displayed the Autumn Collection with Sylvia Meredith acting as compere for the evening with her usual wit and humour.

In November we had our A.G.M. when we treated ourselves to a fish 'n' chip supper with the Committee acting as the supper hostesses

December is members' night when the members take over and the Committee have a rest. This year we have a Black Country comedian to entertain us. December is also the month for our Christmas Celebrations. This year we plan to go out for a lunch.

We have an interesting and varied programme planned for next year too, starting with a demonstration on vegetarian cookery followed by a talk and film on Pine Martens. Next, an intriguing talk entitled, "I worked in the Palace". April sees us following The Celtic trail, then in May we are advised on fire precautions in the home. In June it's hands on as we try our skills at marquetry. July is our garden meeting and in September we will be invited to view The Quaker Tapestry. The next month we will hear the exploits of an ex pilot, and at the end of the year we will be encouraged to join in a Folk Evening which should be fun.

If any of the above appeal to you and you would like to join our friendly group, do contact Beryl Starr our Secretary on 01547 530179 or myself on 01547 530249 and you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

Christine Price - WI President - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### *My Trip to York* by Seth Pearson



We left school at a painful 5.30am and arrived at Danelaw, the Viking village where we changed into Viking clothes and found the actual village. First we were brave Viking warriors as we defended the lovely village from all attacks, then guarded the Chief to dinner. After lunch we amused the Chief for a while and then walked back to the little town where we switched jobs and became pottery masters. We created candle pots for our future houses, maybe! I shaped mine with Viking shapes and patterns and it looked great. The Chief told us that we were low on wood so we collected some but meanwhile the others had a different task. Their task was to make bread for the village then, out of nowhere, a scary Saxon fought our warriors. We won the fight but we were all tired so we got on the bus and found the Youth Hostel, had tea and went to bed.

This was the first and best day of the school trip and I am so glad I went.

## FREE PERSONAL ADS

Here we are trialling personal adverts for anyone in the parish that would like to advertise for free. Just contact me with your name, telephone no., and a brief description of what it is you want to advertise via [beverley2019@gmail.com](mailto:beverley2019@gmail.com) or 07484 280259

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## ***ENTERPRISE SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE***

Enterprise South West Shropshire or Enterprise House, as it is more commonly known, was established in the 1990s after a massive recession threatened the economy of the whole region. It was initiated by the (then) South Shropshire District Council and the local parishes as part of an economic regeneration project and attracted £6 million matched funding from Central Government. Its purpose was to stimulate the economy, to support existing and new businesses and to provide employment opportunities within this special part of Shropshire.

Twenty years on and it is now a major service provider for corporations and residents of the area providing business support, IT, training, consultancy and advice to many of our local companies, parishes and community groups. It rents out workshop and office space, supplies much of the equipment used at village functions and is a font of information for enterprises, individuals and tourists. In addition Enterprise House manages the Bishop's Castle library, the SpArC Theatre and an artificial sports pitch. Recently it has been piloting the social prescription project to support people with medical symptoms within the community.

The local Business Network alone has over 150 members who regularly use the services in person and online. Now, however, the future of Enterprise House is under threat.

It is a 'not for profit' organisation and, in the beginning, all income was from grants. Through the expansion of paid for services and careful management, the funding currently accounts for a third of total annual income and is from three different departments within Shropshire Council. The grants support the business services, the library and a Council representative office. Due to austerity measures being decided in Shrewsbury, these are possibly going to be cut, if not completely withdrawn. Being run as an integrated organisation, the eleven staff of Enterprise House work across all the services provided, so a reduction in even one of the grants would have a damaging impact on the whole structure of the services offered. The loss of Enterprise South West Shropshire could have a devastating effect on the economy of the area.

The 200 sq. miles of our region is unique within Shropshire and has specific needs different from other parts of the county. Most of our businesses are family run or micro-companies with very few employees. They do not have the administrative and management functions of larger businesses and are dependent on Enterprise House for local support. If the services of Enterprise House were not available in Bishop's Castle, it would mean a trip into Shrewsbury or Ludlow with the associated time and costs incurred.

Representation is being made to try to influence the decision and it is important that the support of the Clun valley is recognised.

For more information please visit: [www.enterprisehouse.org.uk](http://www.enterprisehouse.org.uk) or contact Peter Phillips (Chair) or Mike Ashwell (Manager) at: [info@enterprisehouse.org.uk](mailto:info@enterprisehouse.org.uk)

**Tim Russell, Independent Director, Enterprise South West Shropshire**

**Mathew Mead - 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

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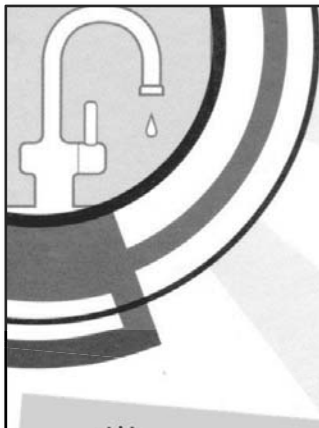
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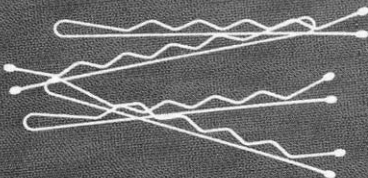
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## Bucknell Allotment Association



Our annual barbecue on 21st July was well attended and the weather was very kind to us, likewise, our stall at the Bucknell Show received a good number of visitors too. The *"help yourself to our surplus produce"* initiative raised £15 for the Air Ambulance charity. This year we also ran a free to enter quiz, with the prize being won by a visitor from Leintwardine.

Our long, hot, dry summer seems an age ago and whilst crops such as garlic can be grown over the winter months, now is the time to start repairing, planning, ordering seeds and preparing the plot for next year.

Some vegetable growers prefer a no-dig method. For others, now is the time to dig over the plot, as this will allow frost to break up the clods of soil. For both systems put on a thick layer of manure and let the worms and frost improve the soil structure.

If you have some chicken wire, posts and a good supply of leaves, this is a good opportunity to make leaf mould, which like manure is ideal for improving soil structure. Just create a cage to contain the leaves, pile them in and leave them to break down.

Meanwhile, as runner beans are thirsty plants, it's beneficial to dig a trench about 8 inches wide and 10 inches deep, line it with paper or cardboard and regularly fill it with vegetable peelings, covering each layer with soil.

Over the coming months, check any fruit and veg you have stored often and remove any that are starting to rot.

If you are looking for a useful Christmas gift, the unique Bucknell Allotment Association's recipe book is still available at the bargain price of just £3. For further information, contact Colin Cummings on 01547 530 977.

Jim Hughes - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### WEST MERCIA POLICE - Bishops Castle & Rural

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are:

- PC 3331 Stuart Coote
- PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

See the Bedstone & Bucknell parish website for the latest monthly police newsletter which gives useful information and lists local crimes, or I can email a copy to you if you contact me directly at [beverley2019@gmail.com](mailto:beverley2019@gmail.com)



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# Who's Who



<b>Bucknell Memorial Hall</b> Chair: Nicky Edwards - 07973 563829 Vice Chair: Roger Bates - 01547 530062 Treasurer: Dorothy Edwards - 01547 530252 Bookings: Eddie & Christine Price - 01547 530249
<b>Bucknell Women's Institute</b> President: Christine Price - 01547 530249 Secretary / Treasurer: Beryl Starr - 01547 530179
<b>Bucknell and Bedstone Good Neighbours and Community Cars</b> Chair: Mike Starr - 01547 530179 Secretary: Dave Baker - 01547 530495 Coordinators: Sue Fairclough - 01547 530279 and Sue Percival - 01547 530040
<b>The Sitwell Arms</b> Helen and Steve - 01547 530213
<b>Coxall Baptist Church</b> Minister: Revd. Kevin Dare - 01547 529707 Administrator: Susan Wilson - 07866 833294
<b>Bucknell Walkers</b> Mike Starr (01547 530179) and Website: <a href="http://www.bucknellshropshire.com/walking-group">http://www.bucknellshropshire.com/walking-group</a>
<b>St. Mary's Church, Bucknell</b> - part of The Middle Marches Benefice for Bedstone, Bucknell, Chapel Lawn, Clungunford, Hopton Castle, Llanfair Waterdine, and Stowe. Vicar: <b>Revd. Annie Ballard</b> - 01547 530030 Please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP or email me at: <a href="mailto:revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com">revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com</a> Bucknell Churchwardens: Jean Pryke and Jenny White
<b>Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council</b> <b>Chair</b> : Jonathan Kemp - 01547 530398 <b>Vice Chair</b> : Ian Owen - 01547 530616 <b>Clerk</b> : Nancy Adams - 01686 671126 <b>BUCKNELL:</b> <b>Councillors:</b> Duncan Cullimore, Carol Davies, William Davies, Nicola Edwards, Stacie Jones. <b>BEDSTONE:</b> <b>Councillor:</b> Chris Savery ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> position currently vacant )
<b>Bucknell Nurseries</b> Andrew & Nick Coull - 01547 530606

<b>Bedstone Art Group</b> Celia Keane - 01547 530397
<b>Bedstone Craft Group</b> Anita Lewis - 07870 219599
<b>Lance Phillips Quality Butchers</b> 01547 530233
<b>Bucknell Post Office</b> Klaus Steffes - 01547 530201
<b>Bucknell Stores</b> Sam Smith - 01547 530834
<b>Bucknell Youth Club</b> Juliet Earp - 07377 405632
<b>Bucknell Allotment Association</b> Chair: Nigel Perrigo - 07860 682368 Secretary: Jim Hughes - 01547 530077 Treasurer: Kate Fraser - 01547 529304
<b>Belmont Garage (Greens)</b> Dorothy Edwards and Shirley Moorhouse 01547 530252
<b>Community First Responders</b> Nicky Edwards - 07973 563829 Ian Owen - 01547 530616
<b>Clun Valley AED Scheme (Defibrillator)</b> Ian Owen - 01547 530616
<b>The Baron At Bucknell</b> Debra and Phil Wright - 01547 530549 <a href="mailto:info@baronatbucknell.co.uk">info@baronatbucknell.co.uk</a>
<b>St. Mary's Primary School, Bucknell</b> Head Teacher: Anna Cook - 01547 530264 Website: not currently available
<b>SJ &amp; Co. Creative</b> Stacie Jones - Graphic designer <a href="mailto:info@sjconsultancy.co.uk">info@sjconsultancy.co.uk</a>
<b>Mothers Union</b> Jean Pryke - 01547 540376
<b>RGH Car Repairs</b> Ralph and Neil Harris - 01547 530676
<b>Member of Parliament for Ludlow</b> Phillip Dunne MP - 01584 872187 Email: <a href="mailto:phillip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk">phillip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk</a>
<b>Shropshire Council - Clun Division</b> Councillor: Nigel Hartin - 07583 962292

## The Bucknell Newsletter

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

- Chair Peter Barron - 01547 530206
- Treasurer and Editor Beverley Stone - 07484 280259 (Voicemail available)
- Distribution A band of loyal volunteer helpers - thank you.

**The deadline for inclusion can vary so please contact me ASAP for details.**

To contribute, please send news, articles, events, relevant photographs, stories, other items of interest or advertisement enquiries to: **beverley2019@gmail.com**

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#### ADVERTISING

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Current advertisement prices per quarterly edition: \*

Rear cover page £40.00 colour on 150 gsm paper.

Full page b/w = £25.00 or £35.00 colour.

Half page b/w = £15.00 or £25.00 colour.

Quarter page b/w = £8.00 or £10.00 colour.

Small 1/8<sup>th</sup> page b/w = £5.00 or £6.00 colour.

**NB:** All advertisement sizes are approximate. Advertisers may request a specific page for their **colour** advertisement at no additional cost, e.g. page 2, centre-fold, penultimate page, back page, subject to availability and adequate notification.

\* Payment by cash, cheque, or BACS is required prior to printing - details are available on request. Invoices will be sent out approximately 6-8 weeks before publication.

Our thanks also go to James Sherratt of **Craven Design & Print** for printing our newsletters. He can be contacted on **01588 673 972** or by email to **info@cravendesignandprint.co.uk**



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