

BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022

No. 33

A close-up photograph of two Peacock butterflies (Aglais aglaia) perched on a cluster of small purple flowers. The butterflies have dark brown wings with prominent blue and orange eyespots. The background is a soft-focus green garden.

550 copies of this edition of the Bucknell Newsletter will be distributed throughout the parish of Bucknell and Bedstone and as widely as possible to surrounding towns and villages.

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BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022

From the Editor / Treasurer

After some exceptionally warm weather this summer, I for one am grateful for our usually temperate climate here in the UK that keeps our trees, shrubs and plants healthy for most of the time. It was very sad to see stretches of our river dry up again, but this is surely an ideal opportunity for riparian owners to reduce excessive vegetation on their river banks, especially where it will impede the flow of river water during periods of heavy rainfall.

I'm pleased to be able to produce another 40-page bumper edition this quarter, made possible by the wonderful people that advertise with us, so as always, thanks to all the businesses that are advertising within, not just to promote their business but to support this community newsletter in the process. If you too would like to advertise your business, then details of advertisement sizes and 2022 prices can be found on page 38 of this edition.

Special Offer: With our advertising prices unfortunately needing to rise next year because of ever increasing printing costs, we can offer you another year of advertising throughout 2023 at 2022 prices if you commit to advertising next year by the end of this year. The 10% discount for advertising in every edition throughout 2023 will still apply. Do please let me know ASAP.

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BUCKNELL STATION PLATFORM GARDENS

Help Urgently Needed



For many, many years, members of Bucknell WI have carefully tended the Station Garden at Bucknell Railway Station. The garden covers both sides of the track and consists of a variety of planters and borders.

In the past, work days were organised and a large group would spend a morning or so planting bulbs in the autumn to flower in the spring, then digging them up in the early summer and planting displays of bedding plants, which would put on such a lovely show over the

summer. They were admired by the passengers as they passed through Bucknell on our very own Heart of Wales line, by visitors and locals alike and of course not forgetting the drivers and

conductors on the trains. Sadly there is no longer a large group to maintain the Station Garden, and today, only a few of us remain. Nevertheless, this has brought about change and new ideas have sprung forth. Now, the Station Garden is regularly maintained by a small group for a couple of hours, once a week, usually from April to November, weather permitting. There is always plenty of variety doing the usual gardening tasks whether that is planting plants, dead heading, weeding or pruning the various shrubs.

However, even that small band of volunteers is slowly decreasing and I am now appealing for help. It is not necessary to be a member of the WI, but merely to have an interest in keeping this garden tidy, presentable and attractive. So, if you have any time to spare and would be interested in joining me to continue to maintain this important asset for Bucknell and the Heart of Wales line generally, please phone Anne Cummings on 01547 530 977 and I can explain more about what we do and answer any questions you may have.

Anne Cummings ~ 29th May 2022



Ardvark Books

www.ardvark-books.com

Upcoming events

Monday 29th August 2022 - The Ardvark Books August Car Boot returns again! August Bank Holiday Car Boot 2022, 9am-3pm: all outside, distanced, bring your own weather protection! There will be live music (tba) and hot and cold refreshments. Free entry and free parking, all welcome.

3rd - 11th September 2022 - h.Art Week: The Shield of Achilles. h.Art at Ardvark is a special show this year: Shannon Donovan curates the work of 13 artists in a show titled: "The Shield of Achilles". The Ardvark Exhibition runs every day 11am-5pm from Saturday 3rd - Sunday 11th September 2022, including Monday 5th September. Free entry, free parking, all welcome.

Sunday 16th October 2022 - The Ardvark October Car Boot Sale is back! Pitches £10 outside, advance booking essential. Live music, tea, coffee and the inevitable bacon butties! We're looking forward to a fun family day out with lots of pitches of bric-a-brac, vintage and interesting stuff to browse and buy. There will be live music to enjoy and make the day go with a melodious lilt, and takeaway tea, coffee and bacon rolls from our tent 9am-2pm, as well as cafe refreshments 10am-4pm inside, including homemade soup.

The Café is open so why not sit down with your chosen books and relax with a hot drink and a choice of home-made cakes! Telephone and website book sales are available too.

The Bookery, Manor Farm, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, Shropshire SY7 0DH

Tel: 01547 530 744 Email: ardvark@btconnect.com

Bookshop and Café open 6 days a week: Tuesday - Sunday 10am-4pm.

We are all enjoying this lovely weather and have been busy in our gardens and with other outdoor activities. Our Annual Plant Sale was very successful. The array of strong, healthy plants were soon snapped up and the few that remained were taken to the triangle by the telephone box and within a day or so the little stall was empty. A surprising amount of money was left in the honesty box so a big thank you to all who gave generously and bought the plants.



With the country anticipating the Platinum Jubilee, we decided to celebrate a little early, and held a Jubilee lunch in a beautifully decorated hall to suit the occasion. As usual, our members came up trumps in the food department with a wide choice of quiches, meats and salads followed by delicious desserts. At the conclusion of the lunch, Vice President Debbie Pope proposed a loyal toast to Her Majesty The Queen.

As we all know, the planned picnic in the park had to be moved to The Memorial Hall. The W.I. did a brisk trade on the cakes. The tea, coffee and cold drinks were free.

In May, Ian Owen gave an interesting talk and demonstration on how to use a defibrillator. In July was our garden meeting and were invited to join our President, Marion Cox in her garden.

We are planning to visit another garden soon, possibly the one at The Walled Garden, Delbury Hall Estate in Craven Arms, with a visit to the tea rooms also, and in August there will be an enamelling workshop.

As the year moves on we have more interesting talks and demonstrations. If you have recently moved to the village, you may wish to join us. It's a great way to meet and make new friends.

Christine Price - 23rd June 2022



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REGULAR DATES – All subject to things getting back to normal!

	Days	Event	Venue & Time	Contact
WEEKLY	Monday	Bedstone Art Group	Bedstone Village Hall 10:30 - 13:00	Anne Holding 01584 874857
	Tuesday	PiYo Club	St. Mary's School Hall 19:30 - 20:10	Helen Bithell 07775 520968
	Tuesday	Grumpy Old Men's Club	The Baron at Bucknell 20:00 - 22:00	Just turn up!
	Wednesday	Pop In Café Bucknell	St. Mary's Church 10:30 - 12:00	Sue Fenlon 01547 530105
	Friday	Bingo	Bucknell Memorial Hall 19:45	Dorothy Edwards 01547 530252
	Saturday	Indoor Circuit Training	Bucknell Memorial Hall 08:30	Helen Bithell 07775 520968
FORTNIGHTLY	Monday	Bucknell Walkers	Lych Gate St. Mary's 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	First Monday	Bucknell Book Group	Variable venues	Doug White 07734 166634
	First Wednesday	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council	Variable venues - see parish notice boards 19:30	Ian Owen Chairman 01547 530 616
	Third Wednesday	Women's Institute	Bucknell Memorial Hall 7:30pm (7:00pm Winter period)	Marion Cox 07964 710983
YEARLY	<p>Bucknell Show 2022 - Cancelled</p> <p>With great regret the Show committee has decided to cancel the Bucknell Show for this year. If enough volunteers come forward to help, the committee hope to begin planning for a bumper Bucknell Show to be held on Saturday 2nd September 2023.</p>			

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The Rev. Dr. Martin Quayle



At the time of writing, the news is dominated by the leadership campaign for the Conservative Party. The winner will be our Prime Minister. Although our constitution is not Presidential, the departing Prime Minister was 'presidential' in the way that he ran the country. Opinion will always be divided about the style and methods of workings of politicians, but it is clear that in this instance, this Prime Minister had to step down because his colleagues were no longer prepared to work with him. Governance is by consent, of the people, by the people and for the people. Integrity, and respect for the rule of law are fundamental principles which all of us in public office need to understand and respect.

In part of the Anglican prayers, we ask that under our Queen we are 'godly and quietly governed'. We may be tempted to think that these words are quaint, but not terribly relevant to our times. The prayer book was written within a time of tumult and rebellion. There had been violence and loss of life on a massive scale. Near to here, at Brampton Bryan, there was a siege. The words were an ardent prayer of supplication, representing the longing of the country for peace and goodwill.

The qualities of integrity and a commitment to public service are critical to the health and welfare of our communities. We are incredibly lucky in Bucknell that we have a Parish Council and a County Councillor of outstanding character and commitment to the public good. The best way that we can maintain these high standards is to appreciate and express gratitude to those who serve us well.

We have recently celebrated the outstanding contribution to our country by Queen Elizabeth. Although the current difficulties in our Government are demoralising and upsetting, we must remain positive about those who do so much good for us. Within the Bible there are exhortations for us to pray for those who have authority and to respect the role that they play in our communities.

For now, shouldn't we be respectful and thankful to those who do serve us well, and often do a thankless task without reward? Thank you to all of you, may you find blessing and fulfilment in your work and lives amongst us.

Priest in Charge: Rev. Dr. Martin Quayle (part-time post)

All enquiries to:

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Bucknell Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Contact me, the scheme coordinator, if you would like to join the scheme by telephoning me or sending me an email.

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or Email: hughes_jim@msn.com

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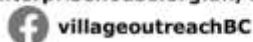
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Fish and crayfish rescued from 'dried-up' Shropshire river



Fish and crayfish have been rescued from a "dried-up" river amid the ongoing heatwave.

Fisheries workers from the Environment Agency worked to save the fish from the depleted River Redlake in Bucknell, Shropshire.

Almost 100 brown trout, Atlantic salmon and an eel were rescued and relocated further downstream, the agency said. White-clawed crayfish were also moved from a section of the river to Malvern, Worcestershire.



Extract from BBC News online article of 19th July 2022 ~ Our thanks to John Price for forwarding this article to us.

What's Happening?

Saturday 3rd September	The Bucknell Big Breakfast at St Mary's Church 9 -11am. Suggested donations of £6 per person.
Saturday 17th September	Soup and Pudding Event in the Memorial Hall from 12 noon to 2pm. Admission £6. Organised by Bucknell WI. Do come along and bring your friends. For more details ring 07964 710 983
Saturday 24th September	PLANT SALE Pam's Plants 10am. to 12 noon Clun Methodist Church Forecourt. Proceeds: Medecins sans Frontieres and Clun Methodist Church
Saturday 8th October	The Lower Deckers (Shanty Group) will be entertaining us in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. Admission £10 to include a Ploughman's Supper. A licenced bar has been applied for. For tickets and more information ring 01547 530 408
Saturday 12th November	The Bucknell Cheese & Wine Party Quiz at St. Mary's Church. Doors open 6.30pm. Admission £8.50 in advance or £9 on the door inclusive of food and first drink. Call Roger Bates 07774 155 411 or Dave Fenlon 07753 831 992
Saturday 19th November	A Table Top Sale is being planned by the Bucknell WI to be held in the Memorial Hall. For bookings and more information ring 07964 710 983
Saturday 3rd December	Bucknell's Annual Festive Concert will be held in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm. and will feature the Knighton Silver Band and guest soloist Melanie Page. Tickets £10 will include light refreshments. For tickets and details ring 01547 530 422

Coxall Baptist Church



After a hundred and fifty years of family worship Coxall Baptist Church held its final Thanksgiving Service on a lovely sunny afternoon in May. The little Chapel was filled to capacity with people who had travelled from as far afield as Devon, Somerset, Lincolnshire, Worcester and London. Everyone had some connection or memories of time spent at Coxall.



One couple had been married at Coxall, another said her parents had also been married there, and a third said her Grandmother had actually taken part in a Baptism Service. The local residents were well represented as most had fond memories of their Sunday School days there.

Vi Morris remembers how as children, they used to play in the field on Anniversary days between the afternoon and evening services. There was one ex-Sunday School pupil present who had stage fright on the big day of the Anniversary and failed to recite his poem, but after the service with just a few people remaining the boy recited the same poem he should have recited forty seven years earlier and received a round of applause, as the saying goes, "better late than never".

The Thanksgiving Service was conducted by the Minister, Kevin Dare, after the welcome by Sue Wilson who was the Secretary for the combined churches of Knighton, Knucklas and Coxall. Andrew Powell the retired village postman read the lesson. Every year we held a Sankey Sunday when we sang hymns taken from the old Sankey Hymn book. These services were always very popular, so as a nod to the past, our opening hymn was the rousing rendition of "Count Your Many Blessings". Joyce Wells, who is the Church Organist, kindly agreed to provide the music. We then heard a brief history of the Church followed by duets by Eileen Lloyd and Jemima Jamison. Eileen and Jemima have enriched our services on many occasions with their lovely singing. The Rev. Michael Humphries led us in prayer, after a short address by the Rev. Kevin Dare. We sang our final hymn 'To God be the glory, great things he has done'. The Rev. Maggie Rich, a former Minister, concluded the service with benediction.

After the service, the congregation were invited to stay for tea. The Bucknell ladies and friends of Coxall had been busy baking and provided a wonderful array of home-made scones, fancy cakes and sponges. It was good to spend time together and chat over a cup of tea. The afternoon collection amounted to £220.00. This will be sent to the B.M.S. which will be sent to the Ukraine appeal. With the closure of the Chapel, the building will be handed over to the Baptist Union of Wales, who are the Trustees. They will be responsible for the selling of the building and the disposal of the fixture and fittings.

The Bible and Cross from above the pulpit will find a new home in Knighton Baptist Church. All photographs and memorabilia will be stored in the archives in Knighton. The small graveyard attached to the Chapel will remain open and maintained and those who have expressed a wish to be interred at Coxall will be permitted to do so for a set number of years.

The final service was truly a service of celebration and thanksgiving for the presence of the church in the area and for the support it has given to so many over the years. As the congregation departed and the doors closed for the final time, the old saying comes to mind, "As one door closes, another door opens".

So we must now wait to see what the future holds for Coxall Chapel.

Christine Price - 19th May 2022

A GRAND DAY OUT



As Graham has a milestone birthday this year, for a special treat, I arranged for a trip to Velocity 2 at Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda: The Worlds' Longest Fastest Zip Wire!

When the day dawned, I packed a picnic and we left home at 6.30am. After a 2½ hour journey, we arrived at the enormous car park, which was already busy. We booked in, then had a look round the Zip World complex situated in this huge excavated quarry (still active) until it was time for our 'experience'.

Along with 26 others, we were ushered into a large room and after a short briefing, we were weighed and kitted out with harnesses, helmets and goggles. We were then helped into our harness etc.

Looking extremely fashionably dressed (not), the 28 of us walked to the Lower Zip wire. This trip was to ensure folk hadn't had a change of heart, for whatever reason. We were each taken by a safety instructor to a padded table and asked to lay face down on it. Then, strapped in, looking a bit like turkeys trussed up ready for the oven, safety checks were done, and we were clipped to our overhead cables: straps tightened and instructions to keep our hands clasped together behind us. More safety checks; the table was lowered. And there we were - hanging!! After a count of "Three" (in Welsh) – off we went. The first few yards gave us both a moment to consider the advisability of what we were doing TOO-O-O LATE!

After an exhilarating maybe 20 seconds, we were at the dismount area, the braking system bringing us to an abrupt halt. Feeling a bit dazed (and quite smug) we were disconnected from the Zip wire.

We waddled to a bright red lorry and seated ourselves for the 15 minute journey to THE BIG ONE - VELOCITY 2 - launch area. Zigging, zagging and jolting all the wiggley-waggley way, round numerous hairpin bends, up the exceedingly steep mountainside. On arrival we gathered in the viewing area. We were 1500 feet up and could clearly see the Menai Straits and Anglesey. The karting track was also visible, which zigged and zagged down the mountainside following the contours of the road (and under it at one point), from the very top to the bottom. Looked enticing for some!

After another quick briefing we entered the launch area and went through the same procedure as before. This time, waiting for the release was a bit scary. It seemed a VERY long way down. Then the Welsh countdown and with a slight jolt we were fired down the cable (so to speak). On reaching top speed, our facial muscles rippled nicely, a bit like when astronauts go through G force training. It was tempting to sing that song from the 'Snowman' – something about floating in the air.



No time, as we were soon skimming over the dismount area and braking to a halt, dangling about 20 feet from the ground. Each of our personal assistants held up a T-shaped long pole for us to grab and we were gently lowered to the ground. It was all over so fast. We had travelled 1555m, come down from 1417 feet up, at speeds in excess of 100mph, all in 55 seconds.

WE SHALL RETURN! (Graham says he's going karting as well). On the way home, we stopped in the wooded area just north of Betws-y-Coed for a leisurely picnic lunch and reflected on OUR GRAND DAY OUT

P.S. We were fitted with helmet cameras, so have video footage of the Velocity 2 trip, together with stills of the ground covered. Arriving at the landing stage.



Geri & Graham Jackson. ~ 6th May 2022

RIVER WATCH 2022



Because of ongoing incidents within the River Redlake here in Bucknell, the Environment Agency have asked me to reiterate the responsibilities that riparian owners have towards the river and the creatures that live within it, some of which are protected species, so I have printed on pages **24** and **25** the information they have asked me to publish. **Please note that the River Redlake is classed as a Main River.**

Earlier this year, two dead crayfish had been identified within our river which could be due to interference with the river bed. The EA have said they are investigating the incident so could not comment further at this time.



Editor ~ 26th May 2022

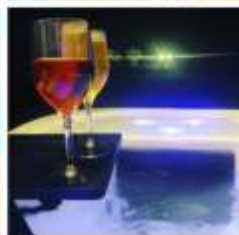
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Off Their Rockers



In the last Bucknell Newsletter, I described the history of Brineddin Wood in Chapel Lawn, and how the Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society is working to improve biodiversity there. I briefly mentioned that wherever possible, more sustainable uses than firewood would be sought for any timber extracted. From lack of management in recent decades many trunks are not straight, so much felled timber will be of poor quality. Some, however, will be good enough for fencing materials and some also for craft purposes including greenwood chair-making, so earlier this year the Society teamed up with greenwood chair maker, Mike Abbot, to find out how well Brineddin Oak performs compared with the more widely used Ash.

Left: Bob James from Bryncambic cleaving some lengths.

Two carefully selected trees were felled in February. Throughout March and April, while the wood was still green, four 'guinea pigs' worked with Mike to make 'Wee Wor' chairs, which are small nursing chairs on rockers based on the traditional 'Clun Chair'. The pictures and quotes here tell their own story, but the outcome is that the oak is good for the straight pieces, but doesn't respond well to steaming, so ash is still needed for the rockers.



Right: Ros Patching from Clun making a leg with a scraper plane.



A very full day was later spent learning how to make the seat from Danish paper. Mark and Di from Chapel Lawn, Duncan from Lydbury North, and Ros from Clun are delighted with their achievements. For Di Cosgrove, this was an entirely new experience, and one which she enjoyed immensely. Her chair sits prominently in the kitchen and is admired by all visitors.

Left: Di Cosgrove and Mark Limbrick with a pile of parts.



Above: Duncan Fulton from Lydbury carefully drills a hole.



Now, apart from fitting the rockers, the four chairs are complete. Other uses for the wood may be found. One idea is to see if the outer 'sapwood' lends itself to basket-making. If any readers have suggestions, do get in touch.



Brineddin Chairs with Brineddin Wood in the background.

On a more general note, the Community Benefit Society always welcomes new shareholders, and also volunteers to its work parties in Brineddin Wood. If you are interested, please contact me on 01547 530 347 or Mark Limbrick on 01547 530 002.

Website - <https://redlakevalleycbs.org/>

Patrick Cosgrove, Chapel Lawn ~ June 2022



Jubilee Weekend

2nd - 5th June 2022



Boules: The first boules match of the year was held in the garden of The Baron on Thursday 2nd June. There was a good turnout. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves. Sylvia Meredith had kindly ordered chips for everyone to share, celebrating her husband Derek's birthday. It's a fun way to spend a Thursday evening and newcomers are welcome.

Jubilee Dance: Organised by Roger Bates, with a licensed bar and live music from Boondogz and One Too Many, this event proved very popular with everyone across the generations. Added to that a barbecue from local butcher Lance Phillips and his family. With the evening in full swing, One Too Many played a set full of tunes which kept the dancefloor full for the whole evening



and which also managed to keep the bar very busy as well. A great deal of gratitude is due to all who worked in the background to make this a fun evening for all – those who prepared the venue, those who helped on the bar, particularly Nicky Edwards who was “on duty” for the whole event and those who helped tidy up afterwards, ready for the rescheduled Picnic in the Hall on Sunday.

Quiz: A quiz in aid of raising funds for St Mary's church was held on Friday 3rd June and it was a sell-out. The evening started with a toast to Her Majesty the Queen. Roger Bates and Dave Fenlon were the very amusing question masters and spot prizes were given out during the quiz to anyone who could answer Roger's very difficult questions. The prizes included a bunch of bananas and a pineapple. Much banter and laughter accompanied



the handing out of these. The main quiz had 80 questions with a possible 89 points to be scored and the winners with 65 points were Martyn and Christine Aplin with Nigel and Janet Hartin. A lovely spread was laid out for half time and the 'bar' staff had a job to keep up with demand collecting donations for soft drinks, beer and wine.

The evening ended with lots of flag waving whilst singing our very rousing national anthem and three cheers for The Queen. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and a big thank you to all who helped.

Weather: Unfortunately, the weather intervened on the Sunday and at 9am. that morning the decision was made to move the Picnic in the Playing Field to a Picnic in the Hall, where the WI provided cakes and refreshments whilst the Knighton Town Silver Band provided the music. The Dog Show and Children's races also moved, but to the field opposite the Memorial Hall.



From the Editor

Introducing David Webb

David will be taking over the editorship from me at the beginning of 2023 and until then will be working as Sub-Editor during the handover. I will continue as Treasurer and assist David with editing whenever necessary.

David came to the village with his wife Mel from Hampshire in 2019. He has enjoyed a varied business career and continues as a home-based Business Consultant, with involvement mostly in the Wellness and Health sector.

He is also an Area Lead (for Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester) with the Federation of Small Businesses and is a board member of the Telford Business Board. Locally he can regularly be seen drying plates at the Wednesday Pop In Café and is chair of the Bucknell Flood Action Group.

The Flood Action Group was formed in 2020 in response to the flooding experienced by local residents and as a forum for dialogue between those affected by flooding and the statutory agencies who could have some impact in mitigating the effects of flooding or the likelihood of it happening in Bucknell in the future.

The Flood Action Group meets regularly (online) with representatives from the statutory agencies (Environment Agency, Shropshire Council, Shropshire Highways, Severn Trent Water and the Forestry Commission).

The Group has been assembled and operates under the auspices of the National Flood Forum and has a Flood Action Plan. This ongoing dialogue has enabled some local progress in terms of keeping drains and culverts regularly cleaned. There is also an ongoing piece of work with the Environment Agency and consultants to map the river flows in order to better advise on future mitigation measures.

PROTECTING OUR RIVERS

Information for landowners



This information is to help landowners carry out their riparian responsibilities in line with environmental law that protects watercourse habitat and aquatic species.

You are responsible for getting the permissions you need before you undertake works on a watercourse. Further information is available online at

www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

Sustainable watercourse management

Watercourses can be vital to maintain land drainage for food production and to reduce flood risk, but any work on them must be undertaken in an environmentally sensitive way. In the past, river management often worked against natural processes.

Here is an example of a channel which has had material removed from the river bed and deposited along the top of the banks, which have been scraped back – in both cases destroying vegetation and habitat. In recent years scientific evidence has proved that more natural and sustainable management often affords greater flood protection to people and property, while also providing significant benefits to wildlife, water quality and the landscape. So the law on riparian responsibility has been changed to reflect this.



Under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 you must get permission for certain activities in or around Main Rivers, or you may commit a criminal offence.

We take enforcement action where appropriate, ranging from requiring landowners to restore damage, through to prosecution for the worst cases. However we much prefer to work with landowners. We can provide pre-application permit advice about how watercourses can be managed sensitively to improve habitat and reduce flood risk. This includes advising on the method and timing of river maintenance and watercourse improvements:

- So that they support as much wildlife as possible.
- Are in the best condition to adapt to our changing climate.
- Where possible reduce flood risk and improve water quality by working with natural processes.

What causes harm to our rivers?

Harm can be caused to water quality, habitat and species by dredging the bed and scraping the banks of rivers and streams, and the large scale removal of vegetation or trees.

Removing vital habitat and physical river features in that way is different from well planned, sustainable management, which involves carefully executed de-silting or weed-cutting work. This will maintain flow whilst protecting fragile river habitats and legally protected species, ranging from fish to water voles and crayfish. Dredging or desilting may still be used in very controlled conditions by the Environment Agency, or by the landowner with the relevant permissions in place to prevent harm.

What sort of activity requires permission from the Environment Agency?

You must find out which permissions you need to carry out an activity that may affect flood risk on a Main River, or may cause damage to the river environment. This may include activities such as:

- major vegetation and tree works where the bank or river bed will be impacted (tree felling may also require a separate licence).
 - some activities within 8 metres of the bank of a Main River or in the floodplain.
 - dredging, raising or removing any material from a Main River, including to improve flow.
- altering the banks, or erecting, altering, repairing or maintaining any temporary or permanent structure in, over or under a Main River.

Further information is available online

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>

The Environment Agency may use its powers to take action to reduce flood risk in areas of high risk, however, responsibility for the watercourse remains with the landowner.

If the site has any statutory designations, such as but not limited to SSSI, SAC or Ancient Monument, then additional permissions from other authorities may be required. On watercourses not designated as Main River, permission is likely to be required from your lead Local Flood Authority or Internal Drainage Board.

Activities that can be damaging to the river environment:

- removal of bed and bank material like gravel from the channel
- deposition of material on river banks
- removal of fish and other aquatic organisms, for example freshwater mussels
- removal of in-stream vegetation
- removal of bankside trees and shrubs
- removal of all woody debris, for example fallen trees and branches
- creation of bare, steep earth banks with increased risk of erosion

The consequences may include:

- increased flood risk to land and property downstream, as water runs faster through dredged and canalised watercourses.
- increased erosion and sediment run-off from un-vegetated banks.
- destruction of rare and legally protected species and their habitats, such as water vole, otter, bat roosts fish and white-clawed crayfish.
- loss of tree shading and fish habitat, which increases water temperatures and makes conditions unsuitable for fish egg and insect larvae development.
- long-term deterioration of the watercourse's ecology – it can take hundreds of years for river gravels, pools and riffles to form naturally.

For further information and advice contact us at:

Enquiries_Westmids@environment-agency.gov.uk

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A Woman / Man's Best Friend



I wasn't looking for another dog. Saying goodbye to my gorgeous Retriever after ten years together was too painful; bone cancer took her too soon. I expect, those who've raised a dog from a pup will understand the bond you share with it. Exercising my late neighbour's elderly Border Collie filled a dog-sized gap until she died at the great age of sixteen, so I chose to dog-sit and dog-walk for some friends in need of 'doggy day care' instead. Then I got a call from The Dog's Trust about Belle.

Found dumped in the South of England, Belle was incredibly nervous and needed rehoming urgently. Somehow she ended up at the Shropshire branch, where I met her for the first time. Although scared, she was very gentle and affectionate and I was smitten. At seven years old her life experience was very limited, so it took several days for her to settle in. I was reminded of the 3-3-3 rule when adopting a dog, a really useful application to understand the 3 stages of a dog or puppy's adjustment period when adapting to a new living situation.

Every day Belle grows in confidence. We began with short walks around Bucknell, where she investigated every single smell on the paths and under bushes and tried to hide every time a vehicle passed. Now she is more used to the routes we take daily, she has really relaxed and gets excited to meet both dogs and their owners. I have enjoyed more chats in the past few weeks than I have in the years I've lived here. Meeting many different folk out walking I've found they are really friendly!

We are getting used to the different dogs that may bark as they guard their territory, where the poop bins are located, the various footpaths and fabulous forestry. Almost daily we see Red Kites, Blackbirds, Tits, Swallows and Sparrows....A Dipper on the river.

Recovering from a head injury, I had spent a lot of time indoors. Having Belle gets me out into nature whatever the weather and I always feel better after a walk. The Causeway has looked particularly spectacular this summer, with the thousands of sweet-scented climbing, cascading roses looking postcard-perfect.

In a sometimes uncertain world, I'm grateful to be able to enjoy this wonderful and safe part of South Shropshire, where you can guarantee a warm 'hello' and a host of eye candy. (I'm referring to the flora and fauna.) Stepping straight outside my home, I can hear the birds, the sheep and the hum of the bees and in some places, the sound of the rushing river. Nature sure is soothing whatever the season and even better shared with a four-legged friend.



<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/>

Michelle Stark - 29th June 2022

Science Adventure at Bucknell School



We, the children of St Mary's Federation, have experienced true science in action. We were in the presence of Professor Tim Harrison and Ben Rowsell from Bristol University. What an amazing team they are; we thought ourselves so lucky to see these sensational science experiments when they visited our school, last Wednesday.

They opened the act by talking about different gases in our universe, focusing on the following: hydrogen, nitrogen, helium, carbon dioxide and oxygen - how fascinating they were! Firstly, Professor Tim Harrison gripped two balloons, one filled with pure helium and the other hydrogen, he lit a candle on a long pole and popped the balloons. The helium did a slightly smaller explosion of fire (we were all safe) and the hydrogen balloon produced a ball of fire of an immense size. We were all buzzing with excitement.



One of our favourites was the Elephant toothpaste experiment performed by Ben Rowsell. Ben mixed a variety of chemicals and liquids such as fairy liquid and other coloured chemicals, then foam burst from the top making a colossal volcanic eruption! Our second favourite experiment was the musical frying pan; Ben had put the frying pan on dry ice, and it made strange sizzling sound. So those were our favourites although there were many more! What a fantastic opportunity for us all!

Written by: Evelyn Ferguson and Katie Lewis from St Mary's Primary School, Bucknell ~ 15th July 2022

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BUCKNELL BOOK CLUB 2022



The Bucknell Book Club (the BBC) is going to restart in October. We hope that we are not going to repeat the past mistakes of selecting books that no-one knew. Instead we will read books that are particularly liked by members.

It will work like this: each member will select a book that is a particular favourite and which they want to share with others. They should be of a length that can be read comfortably within a month. The chooser becomes that book's champion. The BBC arranges to obtain copies, probably second-hand, and distribute them for members to keep permanently. We then read the book to extract as much as possible from it: what we like, what we don't like, and then we meet to talk about it. Towards the end of each of these monthly meetings, the champion of the next book introduces their choice and explains why it is such a good read.

Almost the whole spectrum of books could be discussed: novels, history, biography, poetry, sci-fi, etc., but we will avoid those that are too specialist, too technical. Remember that the champion has to excite the interest of other members. No book is too short. 'The Gruffalo' can be subject to as much critical appraisal as the 'Grapes of Wrath' – "Why does it work? What's its appeal? Where does it fall short?" If we have short books, we might consider discussing a couple at a single meeting. We don't want to be academic in our literary criticism but we each need to be able to comment on the writing style, the flow, the plot, the characters, the action. We want to spread reading enthusiasm; to introduce members to new areas of reading – possibly outside their comfort zone. Non-reading members will be welcomed: those folks who do not have the time to read a full book, but would like to listen in on the discussions in the hope that one day soon they will find time to read the books.

Meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month - unless that is a bank holiday and then it will be on the second Monday - so our first meeting will be on 3rd October, 2022 at High House. At this initial meeting we will introduce ourselves and describe the types of book we particularly enjoy reading. Then each member will briefly tell us about the particular book they would like to champion. The difficult part might be deciding on the order in which we should read and discuss them. Drawing out of a hat might be the fairest approach.

With the first book selected, its champion will explain in greater detail why they have chosen it. That will be encouragement to all others. The BBC will organize to buy copies of that book, as cheaply and as rapidly as possible and distribute them to all members. A member payment of £2.50 per month is suggested, which will hopefully be adequate for many recycled books from AbeBook.co.uk

Tea, coffee, wine and biscuits will be available to encourage discussion about the book just read and the introduction to the next. Each meeting will be held at one of the members' houses. We fully understand that for some members hosting a meeting might not be not be practical.

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Bucknell Allotment Association

by Sally Sparrow



It is not that long ago that I was young, hip and trendy (ish!) and now I find myself writing my first article for this newsletter as the newly appointed “Secretary of Bucknell Allotment Association” (watch out Vicar of Dibley!). How times change.....

Autumn is a time for reflection on a record-breaking hot Summer which sent us all scurrying for water to keep our plants alive. Now is a time to tidy away the debris from this year to make compost for next, a time for nourishing ground in preparation for next year’s crop, and to start planning what we would like to grow next time round. I had always thought allotments were just for ‘old people’ but when the chance came up last year I grabbed it as a total beginner and have worked hard, taken on more space, got fitter, lost weight, made new friends and spent time outside in all weathers and learnt a lot.

Without fail, I feel happier each and every time I leave the allotment than I did when I got there. (It is scientifically proven that soil improves your mental health) I’ve successfully grown, and eaten, my first attempt at potatoes, beans, leeks, shallots, rhubarb, chard, spring onions, and a few herbs. A few other things were less successful and will require more practice!

With cheap, locally purchased raised beds, free compost and donated seeds we began. If you are still reading this you may be interested to know there are allotments available to rent, both half and whole plots come up from time to time. Rent is incredibly reasonable. You could share a plot with a friend to get you started and to see if you like it (most people do) And what’s more you will even get an invite to our occasional Members meetings (I promise it is nothing like the Vicar of Dibley meetings, honestly!)

Contact me on sallysparrow17@btinternet.com for more information.

WEST MERCIA POLICE - Bishops Castle & Rural

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are:

- SGT 2382 Damien Kelly
- PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown
- PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

See the Bedstone and Bucknell parish website for the latest monthly police newsletter which gives much more information and lists local crimes.



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Who's Who - See also Regular Dates



Bucknell Memorial Hall

Chair: Nicky Edwards - 07973 563 829
 Vice Chair: Roger Bates - 01547 530 062
 Treasurer: Dorothy Edwards - 01547 530 252
 Bookings: Christine Price - 01547 530 249

Bucknell Women's Institute

President: Marion Cox - 07964 710 983
 Email marioncox89@gmail.com
 Secretary: Carole Garland - 01547 530 951
 Treasurer: Jane Pallet - Email j.s.willis@live.co.uk

Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall

Bookings: Chris & Margie Savery 01547 530 282
 Email: bedstonehoptoncastlevh@hotmail.co.uk

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Chair: Ian Owen - 01547 530616 or 07836 795 444
Vice Chair: Carol Davies - 07774 428 373
Clerk : Nancy Adams - 01588 641 154

BUCKNELL:

Councillors: Nicola Edwards 07973 563 829, Vivienne Dodd 01547 530 478, Sam Walmsley 07974 707 932, Will Davies 07970 136 169, and one vacancy.

BEDSTONE:

Councillor(s): Chris Savery 07855 885 309, and one vacancy.

For further details (yet to be updated) please see:
<https://bedstoneandbucknell.org/parishcouncil/>

Coxall Baptist Church

~~~ Permanently closed ~~~

## St. Mary's Church, Bucknell - part of The Middle Marches Benefice for Bedstone, Bucknell, Chapel Lawn, Clungunford, Hopton Castle, Llanfair Waterdine and Stowe.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Dr. Martin Quayle (part-time).  
 Bucknell Churchwardens: TBA ~ currently 2 vacancies  
 Church enquiries to Margie Savery please.  
 Contact: Margie Savery on 01547 530 282 or 07929 145 042 or  
 Email: [office.middlemarches@gmail.com](mailto:office.middlemarches@gmail.com)

## Bedstone Art Group

Anne Holding - call or text 07528 536 760  
 Email: [anneholding89@gmail.com](mailto:anneholding89@gmail.com)

## Bucknell Nurseries

Andrew & Nick Coull - 01547 530 606

## Lance Phillips Quality Butchers

01547 530 233

## Bucknell Post Office

Klaus Steffes - 01547 530 201

## River Watch - Beverley Stone

07484 280 259 or [beverley2019@gmail.com](mailto:beverley2019@gmail.com)

## Bucknell Youth Club

Juliet Earp - 07377 405 632

## Bucknell Allotment Association

Chair: Nigel Perrigo - 07860 682 368  
 Secretary: Sally Sparrow - 07866 318 301  
 Treasurer: Heather Walker - 07787 157 305

## Belmont Garage (Greens)

Dorothy Edwards - 01547 530 252

## Community First Responders

Nicky Edwards - 07973 563 829  
 Samuel Winter - 07779 335 996

## Clun Valley AED Scheme (Defibrillator)

Ian Owen - 01547 530 616

## The Baron At Bucknell

Debra and Phil Wright - 01547 530 549  
[info@baronatbucknell.co.uk](mailto:info@baronatbucknell.co.uk)

## St. Mary's Primary School, Bucknell

Head Teacher: Anna Cook - 01547 530 264  
 Website: [www.bucknellprimaryschool.org](http://www.bucknellprimaryschool.org)

## The Sitwell Arms

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Sam Smith - 07528 633 450 (Hair salon)

## RGH Car Repairs

Ralph and Neil Harris - 01547 530 676

## Member of Parliament for Ludlow

Phillip Dunne MP - 01584 872 187  
 Email: [philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:philip.dunne.mp@parliament.uk)

## Shropshire Council - Clun Division

Councillor: Nigel Hartin - 07583 962 292

## The Bucknell Newsletter

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

- Chair Peter Barron - 01547 530 206
- Treasurer and Editor Beverley Stone - 07484 280 259 (Voicemail available)
- Sub Editor David Webb - david.webb@dajsolutions.co.uk
- Business advertising Debbie Pope - 07929 823 568 / dp@haroldsharp.co.uk
- Articles and charity promos Carolyn Wilde - 01547 530 085 / cmwilde@btinternet.com
- Proof-reading and 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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