

The Bucknell Newsletter

Summer 2025

Issue 44



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 ~ Summer 2025

From the Editor

It's now over three years since I joined the editorial team for the Bucknell newsletter, but changing circumstances (not least an increasing workload) mean it is time for me to hang up my virtual pen and pass the editorship on. It's been an enjoyable time and being the focal point for village news has fed my curiosity - or nosiness as my wife calls it!

I am eternally grateful to everyone who has contributed articles and photos. Without your contributions there would not be a newsletter. I won't list everyone to whom thanks are due in this regard but I must give special thanks to Sue Fenlon for her considerable contributions on all the events which happen in Bucknell. I should also thank Christine Aplin for help with the advertisers. Without you, the advertisers, there simply would not be a magazine, Final thanks to my proof readers, my distributors and not least my wife Mel, for generally helping me get the job done and usually somewhere near time.



For my final edition, I was grateful to have so much content to work with - the various VE Day events, the new Boules court (which hopefully is the prelude to the new Village Hall), the good news from the school Ofsted inspection, the WI plant sale and the progress from Forestry England on the Coronation Wood.

The editorship has been a pleasure and I look forward to seeing new editions under the new editorship.

David

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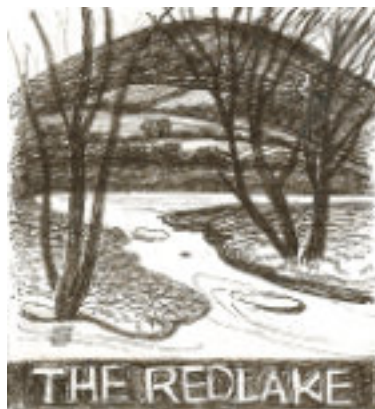
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Teme Valley Vintage Club. courtesy of David Webb. Boules Pitch (p25) courtesy of Sue Fenlon

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Our neighbouring publication, The Redlake, is available to read online, with a full archive of over 60 and growing editions. The link for the archive is:

<https://chapel-lawn.co.uk/the-redlakes/>

The full archive of the Bucknell Newsletter is available online at:

<https://bedstoneandbucknell.org/bucknell/bucknell-newsletter/>

Ofsted Report- St Mary's CE Primary School, Bucknell

We are so pleased to share the news of our recent Ofsted visit in which the inspectors rated us as 'good' across all areas. The very positive relationships between staff and pupils were recognised within the report and the fact that our children are happy in school. We were also pleased that the children's behaviour and sense of citizenship and social responsibility shone through. We are proud that the inspectors recognised that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and expectations are high. To read more find the report online here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/123537>

Opportunities for a School Garden/Allotment

We would like to find parents or members of the community who would be happy to have a DBS check and take over the maintenance of our school allotment. We would be happy for this person to have their own bed, however we want your help to maintain and keep our school allotment with the hope of growing fruit and veg which we can use in school and perhaps sell to the community. You would be able to have the help of our students, and we would welcome your input into how to develop our allotment further.

If this sounds like it could be you, please come and see Mrs Ray in the school office, she works Mondays-Thursdays. Or you can email admin.bucknell@bhf.shropshire.sch.uk Or give her a ring Monday-Thursday during school hours 01547 530264

Rach Braybrooke, Lead Teacher

Flood Group - Update

Those whose homes were flooded back in October 2024 should by now have received an invitation to register for PRF (Property Resilience Funding) under an Environment Agency and Shropshire County Council funding scheme.

Running alongside this work, the local Flood Action group, in conjunction with the National Flood Forum to prepare a Flood Response Plan (FRP). This is a confidential briefing document for the emergency services, so that they are aware of where routes might not be passable and where there are residents who are particularly vulnerable. The similarity in acronyms still causes me to think twice when I'm referring to either project!

Our next multi agency meeting (MAM) happens early in July, where we will be meeting with Highways, the County Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent to make sure our Flood Action Plan is being responded to. If you have any particular concerns around flooding, please get in touch with one of the Flood Group members.

David Webb, Bucknell Flood Action Group - 07545 544208

Bucknell Newsletter Changes for 2025 and Beyond - part 2



Thanks to everyone who responded to our call for more help. We could still do with some more help though.

Editorial - We need to find a new Editor.

Whilst we have received offers of help, we still need someone to take over the editor reins. If you have a passion for writing or sharing information, please contact me and I can give you an outline of what is involved. I can also help with training. And if proofreading is your thing, we'd be happy to have you onboard.

Distribution - I have received some offers of help which is most appreciated, but we could use a couple more volunteers. Our current loyal team does a sterling job, but we have been a reducing number over recent years. Distribution comes in many elements - collection from the printer, sorting out distribution bundles and then actually posting them through letter boxes. As editor, my distribution duties take almost as long as writing the magazine. We need more help.

Advertisers - Without the financial support our advertisers offer, there would be no Bucknell Newsletter. So thank you to all our advertisers. If we can run any editorial copy for you, to give a bit more human interest about your business, please get in touch.

So, if you think you may be able to help in any way please contact me - I promise I don't bite and I won't get you to do something you don't want to do.

David Webb, Editor, editor@bucknellnews.co.uk 07545 544208.

News from the Pop in Cafe

Opening hours - Every Wednesday

Our little cafe, run entirely by volunteers, is open every Wednesday in St Mary's church from 10.30am to noon. All donations received are divided at the end of each year between village causes and organisations which help our village.

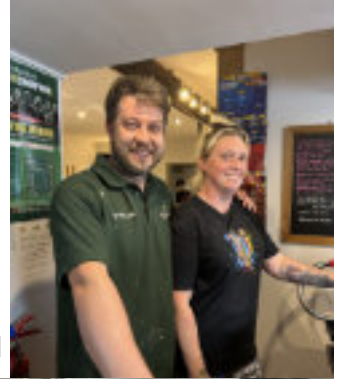
Everyone is welcome.
Sue Fenlon (Treasurer) 0737 504 2350

Lunch at the Sitwell in May

Courtesy of The Pop in Cafe, twenty four villagers enjoyed a lunch of either fish and chips or roast chicken dinner with a pear crumble to follow. The first drink was also provided. There were many compliments for Chef Rob and much thanks go to Kerry who charged between the kitchen and the bar keeping everyone fed and watered. This is the third year a lunch has been provided from the funds raised by volunteers of the cafe.

Without our little cafe and our village pub events like these would not happen and so we must all make an effort to support them and the people behind the organisation.

Well done and thanks all.



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Thank you to everyone who came by and bought plants, despite it being a weirdly chilly Saturday morning after months of warm sunshine. It was really great to chat to everyone and share news of how our gardens are doing (monsoon last year, drought this year) and what plants you would like us to grow next time.

Also thank you to the Sitwell, which opened for full-English breakfasts, tea and coffee for anyone wanting a break before taking their plant haul home. It was a real bonus. Why not try us for one of our upcoming events.



July 15th Tuesday OUTING – VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED BUT WILL BE GARDEN & HOUSE TOUR PLUS CREAM TEA

August 21st Daytime meeting KILT PIN BROOCHES

September 17th MAGIC AND MYSTERY NIGHT - Jack Dent

October 15th COMMUNITY POLICE - Local issues; scams and how to avoid them

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REGULAR DATES

	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
	Wednesday	Grumpy Old Men's Club	The Sitwell 20:00 - 22:00	Just turn up for a chat about anything
	Wednesday	Pop In Café Bucknell	St. Mary's Church 10:30 - 12:00	Sue Fenlon 07375 042350
	Thursday	Tots and Tinies Bucknell	Bucknell Memorial Hall 10:00 - 12:00	Kelsey Winter 07975546763
	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	Memorial Hall 19:30	Sylvia & Derek Meredith 01547 530422
MONTHLY	First Wednesday	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council	parish notice boards 19:30	Carol Davies Chairman 0774 428 373
	Third Wednesday	Women's Institute	Bucknell Memorial Hall 7:15pm	Marion Cox 07964 710983
YEAR	Bucknell Show			



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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Safer Neighbourhood Police Constable: PC 3331 Stuart Coote

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss, PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown

Team Email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

West Mercia Police contact numbers - Emergency: 999 Non Emergency: 101

Bishops Castle Police Station (not for reporting): 101, Extension 770-4901

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Bucknell celebrates the VE anniversary.

On the hot and sunny afternoon of 10th May over 70 people enjoyed a wonderful and uplifting celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe in our own Bucknell Memorial Hall. The whole event was organised by Sylvia Meredith and with an army of volunteers helping her the hall was decorated with balloons and bunting and tables festooned with flags and laden with sandwiches, savouries and

lots and lots of cake!

We enjoyed music provided by Trevor Wood who recounted his own experience of VE Day in 1945 as an eight year old lad. We also had a moving and humorous account of VE Day from our own Christopher Price who remembered being spurned by his lady friend for a handsome RAF chap during the celebrations. Christopher celebrates his 100th birthday soon. Children weren't forgotten and they could collect personalised ration books enabling them to receive the amount of sweets children received 80 years ago - 2oz of dolly mixtures! Eileen and Jemima played and sang for us in the interval and then Trevor returned to lead us in the old wartime songs including We'll meet again, Pack up your troubles, The white cliffs of Dover and A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square. Most of us didn't need the song sheets as they were all very familiar tunes. The afternoon ended with rousing 'last night of the proms' songs and we belted out Jerusalem and I vow to thee my country amongst others finishing with God save the King. Huge thanks go to Sylvia and her team for a lovely celebration.



VE Day 8th May 2025

On the sunny evening of Thursday 8th May a small group of villagers gathered for prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance at the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard as part of the celebrations of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe. This was followed by the ringing of the church bells at 6.30pm in conjunction with church bells being rung throughout the nation. Everyone was encouraged to 'have a go' and it is not as easy as it looks. However the volunteers managed to produce a sound even though it was not very tuneful! It was a good time to remember the villagers who had lost their lives fighting for their country and for those of us who had lost family members and friends in the conflict to remember their sacrifice.

VE Day - Bucknell School

Visit from Mr Christopher Price - on the 80th anniversary of VE Day

We were so fortunate to have a visit from Mr Christopher Price on Thursday 8th May to celebrate the anniversary of VE Day. Mr Price is a neighbour of our school and came in the afternoon with his son.

Today Mr Price is ninety-nine so of course, he was nineteen on VE day. At the time he was training to be a military engineer and stationed in Kent. He explained that he and several friends all decided to go up to London and were there in Trafalgar Square. Mr Price remembered that it was 'packed, with people shaking hands with people they'd never seen before.' He said that there was some singing and sang us a bit of a song called, 'Bless 'em all'.

Our children sat and listened so quietly and respectfully. I know all the staff were very proud of them, and you would have been too. Together, we held the two-minute silence thinking of people who died serving our country, and also thinking of their families. We peppered Mr Price with questions and many children spoke proudly of members of their family who had fought in the second world war.

Mr Price explained that he had travelled on a troop ship from Southampton to Mumbai (then Bombay) in India. He served as an officer in the Indian army and used his engineering skills building bridges in Malaysia.

We were all very thankful to him for coming to school and sharing his experiences with us all. What a wonderful afternoon!

Rach Braybrooke, Lead Teacher at St Mary's CE Primary School, Bucknell



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News from the Police

ROGUE TRADERS

There have been recent reports of some pushy doorstep traders operating in the Bishop's Castle area, they have been cold calling at properties offering services such as gardening work, tree cutting and gutter cleaning.

- *Rogue traders often appear at your door unannounced, claiming to have noticed issues whilst driving by.*
- *They may try to pressure you into making a decision immediately or sign up for services on the spot.*
- *They may offer to carry out work cheaply, but charge an extortionate price after it has been completed.*
- *Do not be forced into making a quick decision on the doorstep.*
- *Do not allow uninvited callers into your home.*
- *Beware of 'companies' that only use mobile phone numbers and accommodation addresses.*
- *Anyone who signs a contract on the doorstep following a visit that was not arranged (unsolicited) have 7 days to cancel it by law.*
- *All cancellation rights must be provided in writing to the customer at the time the contract is agreed, usually on the doorstep - it is an offence not to do so.*
- *Refuse to be taken to the bank to withdraw money - if you ever feel intimidated by them, close the door and call the police.*

For further information and reporting dubious traders, please contact - Shropshire Council Trading Standards – www.shropshire.gov.uk/trading-standards/ or Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/>

Social Media and children

Social media use by children is a hot topic at the moment as questions are finally being asked around social media and its impact on young people as well as the wider society. Social media use by children can understandably raise various safety concerns including online bullying, threats, potential grooming along with negative effects on mental health including anxiety. Most social media accounts require users to be at least 13 years old and there is a debate calling for this to be raised to 16. However, it is easy to sign-up to an account with a false date of birth.

For some expert advice about how to keep children safe online, please refer to the following links -

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/social-media-advice-hub/social-media-concerns/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

My War Years - Betty Bolton

"I was five years old when the war broke out, aged six I became totally deaf through illness and nine years old when it ended. My recollections of these years are quite vivid at times. I lived some forty miles from London and everywhere was in total darkness. No lights could be shown outside - even when using a torch that had been half painted out to dim it. If you showed a light from your home the Air Raid Warden would come knocking on your door - so we had thick curtains to cover the windows.

I was told that you could hear the enemy bombing London and search lights could always be seen scouring the sky looking for enemy planes. Our windows were taped across to prevent the glass breaking from the blast of bombs dropping on London. A few miles up the road from where I lived was a Royal Air Force camp where they repaired damaged aircraft. I remember these planes being transported, going past our house on huge lorries for repair.

Everyone in the area took in RAF men and women, we had two very nice boys billeted with us - real Cockneys. They were very jolly and played our piano and sang with my Dad. I lived in a three-bed-roomed house with my Mother and Father, sister, grandmother and these two boys - not forgetting our dog, so you can imagine that it was a tight squeeze! Every time the air raid siren sounded we had to go down to the air raid shelter, which we shared with our next door neighbours - complete with all our clutter and of course a gas mask. They were kept in a cardboard box and we had to take them everywhere, horrible, smelly things.

The latter part of the war brought "Doodle Bugs" which the Germans launched over the Channel. They suddenly appeared from nowhere and I was told that they made a horrible, screeching noise which would suddenly stop and they would drop down causing much devastation. I remember seeing one, having been pulled into a shop doorway as it passed over.

My Dad was too old to join up, he had served in the 1918 war, so he joined the Special Constabulary Police force - he patrolled during the night with his friend. Needless to say they never arrested anyone, if anything was going on they turned a blind eye!

I must say that I remember a lot of good times, when everyone pulled together. We were a happy lot. The day the war ended everybody went wild. Houses were decorated with flags and bunting, someone built a bonfire with a Hitler Guy! Food rationing went on for a long time after the war ended, when it did I remember going into Woolworths to buy some sweets -

I was spoilt for choice, I couldn't decide what I would like to buy!"

Plant Sale

Hardy Perennials & Alpines from Pam's Plants
Small Trees (inc Acers) & Shrubs from Stan Wild.

Bank Holiday Monday August 25th

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St Mary's Church, Bucknell

Quiz night at St Mary's

On Friday 21st March the two Daves and Roger hosted a very successful quiz night raising funds towards the upkeep of the church.

The questions from the Dave duo were a bit more challenging than Roger's hilarious questions concerning vegetables and his prizes were unexpected to say the least!

The main quiz was won by the team of Carole and Martin Garland and Anne and Colin Cummings who scored 43 points out of a possible 70.

Sue had put together a couple of table top quizzes and the Name the Pop and Rock Group quiz was won by Karen's very 'happy' table scoring 30 out of 30.

Tapas was made and served with help by Sue Fairclough and it was an outstanding effort with many compliments being received.

Lots of raffle prizes, a whisky auction and the bring your own booze made it a great night of fun and laughter.

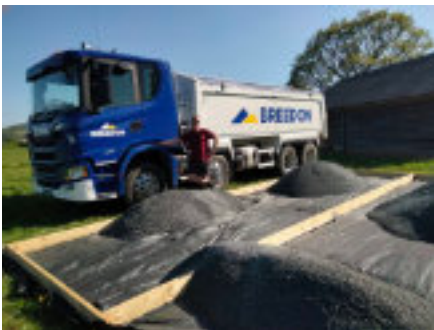
A grand total of £402.50 was raised and many many thanks to all who supported us.



Sue Fenlon

All Church enquiries to: Benefice Administrator: Margie Savery
01547 530 282 or 07929 145 042 Email: office.middlemarches@gmail.com

For information on any Church events please contact Debbie Pope, Church Warden on 07929 823568



New Boules Pitch

On behalf of Bucknell Skittles Club I would like to say a big thank you to Wayne Davies and Breedon Quarry for donating the gravel for our new Boules pitch it is very much appreciated, also to the Church Cafe for their donation. Thank you all very much. Derek Meredith.

On a sunny blue sky Thursday evening the first boules matches of the summer took place at the new pitches on Daffodil Lane. A good turnout saw Bob win with the highest score of 21 with David trailing seven points behind in second place. Lots of laughing and banter made for a good evening's entertainment. Bring your own refreshments. Anyone can come along, young and old(er)! Only £1 to play and all funds go to Midland Air Ambulance at the end of the season.



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BUCKNELL NEW VILLAGE HALL

The Open Day went ahead on 12 April as planned. Comments left in the “Suggestions Box” will be considered by the Hall Committee and the Architectural team over the next few months as they seek to develop and finalise the internal layout of the New Hall. Marion Cox has agreed to liaise with user groups (both existing and prospective) to timetable group sessions in advance of the next visit by the team from Liverpool University who plan to meet representatives from the user groups to discuss their requirements in more detail. Marion may be emailed at marioncox89@gmail.com.

This ongoing consultation process enhances our chances of building a new Hall that meets the needs of Bucknell residents and improves our chances of securing adequate funding for its construction. The completion of the consultation process moves us to the next and final stage before construction. This stage includes the completion of architectural and engineering technical design, the submission of Building Regulations application, the discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions etc. Andrew Rolfe has agreed to liaise with the University team on technical matters. As we work through these final stages, attention can be given to the tendering process and, as cost updates become clearer, funding proposals can be considered. Major funders have made it clear that funding applications will only be considered when a project is “shovel ready” even to the extent that contractors have been appointed, subject to finance being made available.

There is much yet to do but progress is being made, which is encouraging.

Mike Alderton, ,Project Coordinator, Bucknell New Village Hall - UPDATE 21 MAY 2025



Coronation Wood - Planting at Lower Lye, an area of 21 hectares is now complete. A total of 31,041 trees planted. This is comprised of 89% (17) broadleaf species, 11% (1) conifer species. Lower Lye is part of Forestry England's four-year woodland creation programme, supported by the Government's Nature for Climate Fund. Nationally, the programme has planted 1.8 million trees across 16 new woodlands in England, covering 1,000 hectares – one of the most significant expansions of England's forests in decades.



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Saturday 12th July: Summer Flea Market and Big Summer Book Sale launch!
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Monday 25th August: Vide Grenier/Empty Your Attic, 9am - 3pm

h.Art @Aardvark 2025 - Phil Rogers: The Possession of Wonder, 6-14 Sept

We are open Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm (closed Mondays) and the cafe offers a range of hot and cold drinks, light lunches, and homemade cakes.

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

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



**Shropshire
Hills
National
Landscape**

**Some items to
look out for:
PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

July 2025 on the draft new five-year Plan for the Shropshire Hills landscape. **Funding** for farmers in the Shropshire Hills – we have just received new guidance from Defra is now on our website.

The Long Mynd and Stiperstones Shuttle is back for another year – this year we are running more trips for a longer season starting on Saturday 10th May and then running every weekend until the end of September. We've increased the daily frequency of the service too by tweaking last years' timetable. This means that we will be running five circuits a day from 9am until 6pm.
<https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/>

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Who's Who



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

Bucknell Flood Action Group

David Webb: 07545 544 208

Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall

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

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Chair: Carol Davies - 07774 428 373
Vice Chair: Sam Walmsley 07974 707 932

Clerk : Nancy Adams - 01588 641 154

BUCKNELL:

Councillors: Nicky Edwards 07973 563 829, Viv Dodd 01547 530 478, Will Davies 07970 136 169
Ian Owen - 07836 795 444, Peter Burke 07502 519100

BEDSTONE:

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

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

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

Bucknell Churchwarden(s): Debbie Pope 07929 823568 and currently one other vacancy.
Church enquiries to Margie Savery please.
Contact: Margie Savery on 01547 530 282
or 07929 145 042 or
Email: office.middlemarches@gmail.com

Bedstone Art Group

Anne Holding - call or text 07528 536 760
Email: 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

Bucknell Youth Club

Jim Hughes - 07980 883 785
hughes_jim@msn.com

Bucknell Allotment Association

Chair: Colin Carter 07952147627
Secretary: Claire Carter - 07777 137394
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

St. Mary's Primary School, Bucknell

Head Teacher: Anna Cook - 01547 530 264
Website: www.bucknellprimaryschool.org

The Sitwell Arms

Rob and Kerry - 01547 530 213

Tots & Tinies - every Thursday from 10-12
Kelsey 07975 546 763
totsandtinies.bucknell@gmail.com

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Ralph and Neil Harris - 01547 530 676

Member of Parliament for Ludlow

Stuart Anderson MP - 0207 2197731
Email: stuart.anderson.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
- Editor David Webb - editor@bucknellnews.co.uk
07545 544208
- Treasurer Beverley Stone - 07484 280 259 (Voicemail available)
- 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: **editor@bucknellnews.co.uk**

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Small 1/8th page b/w = £6.00 or £8.00 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, centrefold, 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 generally be sent out approximately 6-8 weeks before publication.

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