

The Bucknell Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Issue 45



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BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER ~ Winter 2025

From the Editor

So really it is a final editorial farewell from me after three enjoyable years in the role, sharing the various activities and events from Bucknell and the surrounding area. Thanks to everyone for the feedback on the newsletter - it really has helped to shape the publication.

Thanks also to my many contributors for the articles which make up the newsletter. A special thanks to Sue Fenlon, who has provided a substantial number of articles and photographs. There are again a number of her contributions within this issue.

It is then my role to put this content together and combining the content with the advertisements. Without our advertisers, there would not have been any magazines, so thank you all.

My next thank you goes to the proof readers who meticulously check my efforts and provide the feedback, so that by the time the magazine is sent to the printers, there are the minimal amount of glitches. Thanks to James at Craven Design and Print for always producing the finished product on time.

The next thank you goes to Mel who always sorts the magazines into distribution bundles and drives me around while I deliver the bundles to the next group of thank yous - the distribution team who put them through your letter boxes. My final thank you goes to you for reading the magazine and completing the cycle. Thanks again, it has been a pleasure.

David

* Indicates contributors' articles

Index

4	Advertised Services at a glance	18	The WI*
4	Recalling 30 years in Bucknell*/ Archive	19	St Mary's School Update*
5	Village Hall Quiz*	21	News from the Police*
5	Rural Funding*	26	Future of the Newsletter*
6	Halloween*	26	Bucknell Village Hall*
7	Remembrance Events*	27	St Mary's Church News*
9	Pop In Cafe News*	32	Flood Group Update*
11	Regular dates / Neighbourhood Watch	33	Who's Who?
15	Seasonal Health*	34	The Bucknell Newsletter page
16	Police Contacts*		

*Front cover photos:
Emptying the river. courtesy of David Webb.*



Advertised Services at a glance with page nos.	
Qualified and insured tree care	2
Electrician / Home care	8
Pest Control	9
Chimney sweeping, Wood burner services, Electrical, Plumbing and Gas Services	10
Funeral services / Domestic heating oil	12
House Clearance / Furniture upcycling and upholstery repairs / Building and renovation work	13
Memorials & monumental specialist / Interior and exterior decorators	14
TV Aerials, Satellite systems, Security and Digital installations	15
Commercial property letting and storage	16
Specialist Lawyers	17
Door to Door bus service for local communities	20
Hog Roast	21
Building, landscaping & restoration service / Hair & Beauty	22
Carpentry & Roofing/Skip Hire	23
Building and landscaping / Domestic appliances & Calor bottled gas stockist	24
Office Services, Equipment hire and IT support	25
Bookery, Cafè and events in Brampton Bryan/ Tipper Haulage and Aggregate supply	28
Cycles sales, repairs & accessories/ Unisex hairdressing / Beautician	29
Graphic design and printing / Painting Services/ Domestic Help	30
Osteopath services/ Heating and Energy services	31
Electrician services	35
Insurance Services	36

Recalling my arrival in Bucknell

I can remember arriving here almost 30 years ago and being advised by an infectious local, known variously as Titch, Cwm or Lloyd, to sit in the corner of the pub; to keep my ears open and my mouth shut. Thus, I learned of unusual ways to catch a mole and how to make exotic wines from a small bowl of blackberries and 3 bottles of vodka. I may still be an “incomer”, but I must say I find Bucknell to be a very happy place to live. Please also see my article on **page 26 on future needs for the Newsletter**.

Peter Barron

Our neighbouring publication, The Redlake, is available to read online at <https://chapel-lawn.co.uk/the-redlakes/>. The full archive of the Bucknell Newsletter is available online at: <https://bedstoneandbucknell.org/bucknell/bucknell-newsletter/>.

BUCKNELL VILLAGE HALL

The memorial hall committee ran a very successful quiz at the end of October raising funds for the upkeep of the hall. Six sections of twelve questions covering all sorts of subjects were produced and delivered by Carolyn and the winning team scored a very reputable 60 marks out of 72. Well done to Martin, Christine, Sue and Len.

Sandwiches and nibbles were laid out in the half time interval and the small bar served a selection of wines and beer. The obligatory raffle also raised funds for the hall.

A very pleasant evening with thanks to all who made it happen.

Sue Fenlon

For new Village Hall Enquiries contact:

Mike Alderton, Project Coordinator,
Bucknell New Village Hall



Funding to help communities to care for the natural environment



**Shropshire
Hills
National
Landscape**

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund has reopened this autumn and new applications are invited for projects to start in spring 2026.

Fund priorities are:

Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, landscape, wildlife or heritage of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

Educational and awareness-raising activities relating to the area and its conservation, especially involving young people.

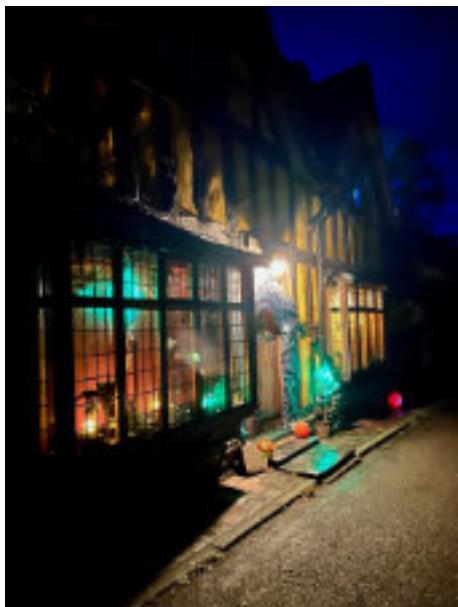
We're keen to encourage applications from community groups. Grants are in the range of £500 – £2,000 and can make a real difference in converting great ideas into sustainable community action for nature and people.

Earlier this year, grants totalling just under £15,000, were awarded to nine practical projects with strong community engagement. These include funding the wildlife monitoring efforts of a parish council, creating a publicly accessible wildflower meadow and supporting a community wildlife group to deliver a programme of events. If you have an idea in mind, the first step is to complete a short project idea form. We will then get in touch with you to discuss your idea and will be able to recommend whether your project should progress to full application. The deadline to make an expression of interest to the Fund is 13th February 2026.

The link to the online form, further information and how to apply is on the Shropshire Hills National Landscape website, www.shropshirehills-nl.co.uk or go to [Read about 'how to apply' here](#). Or contact Stephanie Hayes from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team, email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk or telephone 01743 254746.

Halloween in Bucknell

Lots of creepy little devils and ghouls wandered about Bucknell on Friday 31st October, some finding shelter in the spooky Monks Cave (AKA The Old Schoolhouse). The skeleton in the graveyard was glad it didn't rain as he had lost his clothes and shivered in the cold night air.



Well done to the Monks who put on a fabulous show for everyone who passed, this



certainly wasn't just for children. There were lots of pumpkins spread around the village grinning fiendishly in the dark and many little bags were quickly filled with sweets and treats.

Sue Fenlon

Remembrance Day

A good crowd of villagers gathered in the rain to honour the memory of the seventeen men from or connected to Bucknell who died in the two World Wars.

It was lovely to see the children from our village school placing poppies and crosses at the foot of the memorial stone beside wreaths from the Royal British Legion, Parish Council, the Village and the church. The short service was led by Jenny White and the Kohima epitaph was spoken by Peter Barron.



As we stood and listened to the last post and the reveille the simple epitaph was a poignant moment to remember in our busy daily lives.

**“When you go home, tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow we gave our today”**



The school have once again made the village proud to support Poppy Day and our remembrance of the local lads who died all those years ago.



Shaun Dutton - Electrician

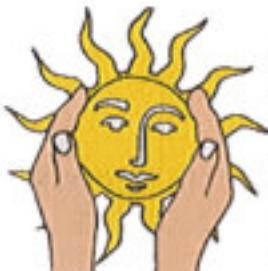
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News from the Pop in Cafe



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.

Bucknell Pop in Cafe have donated £500 to Knighton and Presteigne food bank to aid with the purchase of grocery and butchers vouchers.

Sue Fairclough is pictured handing the cheque to Helen Anderson who runs the food bank from the

Baptist church in Knighton.

Helen thanked the people of Bucknell who support the cafe and said the money is invaluable especially in the lead up to Christmas which always puts an added burden on to families in need.

Christopher Price celebrated his 100th birthday at the end of October and had Happy Birthday sung to him by the Pop in Cafe on Wednesday. Christopher is pictured sampling one of the delicious cakes. He is an inspiration to us all to get on with life and enjoy what we are doing.

Everyone is welcome.

Sue Fenlon (Treasurer) 0737 504 2350



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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
	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



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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As we head into the festive season, daily life tends to grow a little fuller - there is more to do, with more time on our feet, more organising, more plans, and often a little less space to pause. It's a time filled with anticipation and connection, but it can also bring tension, tiredness, and a sense of being pulled in many directions.

At Hazel Grove Health in Bucknell, we use osteopathy and acupuncture to offer gentle support through this busy period. Osteopathic treatment can help ease everyday strains and encourage freer movement, while acupuncture is often valued for its calming, settling effect on the nervous system. Together, they provide a natural way to create a little breathing room for both body and mind.

The intention is simply to help you feel comfortable, balanced, and able to enjoy the moments that make this time of year special—whether that's time with family, quiet fireside evenings, or winter walks in the frosty countryside.

Why not give yourself the gift of wellbeing this Christmas—you deserve it.

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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
Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ - Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
Website: www.westmercia.police.uk Twitter: @SouthShropCops
Facebook: Bishop's Castle Policing Team Rural Watch

September saw some changes to the Bishop's Castle Policing Team, as of the 29th September, PC Stuart Coote moved to Church Stretton Police Station and covering the Craven Arms area. PC Coote will be replaced by PC 21989 Daryl McWatt who moves from Ludlow. The government have allocated funding for West Mercia Police from the neighbourhood policing grant to be spent on local policing, as a result this has permitted a new post for an extra PC to be stationed at Bishop's Castle Police Station, this will be PC 21006 Simon Wilkey who joins from Oswestry. As of the 10th September, PCSO's shifts now work no later than 8pm.



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As we come to the close of another year, it's time to reflect on all the things that Bucknell WI's members have enjoyed during 2025.

Our monthly Members meetings have been a mix of educational, fun and

challenging – hearing about the training of Secret Agents in WW2, quizzes and games, being fascinated by Magician Jack Dent, tasting sausages and ice cream (not together, obviously!) and learning about houseplants to name but a few. We visited Burton Court and learned about its history and current use as a wedding venue and a family home. We've tried our hand at making brooches and learned how to make our gardens a bit more wildlife-friendly. All combined with general friendship and good humour, and any excuse for a tea, coffee and a chat.



December's meeting was anticipated with some anxiety by some (myself included) as it was to paint a winter picture. We were ably assisted by two of our own members and the results were amazing here are a few of them:

We also ran outings as part of our sub-groups – Garden Group has visited each others' gardens and learned a bit at each, as well as being inspired by grander venues; Lunch Club has eaten well and shared our favours around local pubs, cafes and restaurants; Walking Group continues to offer shorter walks and chat whenever the weather is appropriate. All these groups are informal and friendly, but the most informal is our Culture Club, where anyone who fancies going to see a film, play or ballet, will see if others want to tag along. This year's national WI resolution is called **"Bystanders can be lifesavers"** Bucknell WI had training in CPR and using a defibrillator a couple of years ago so we know what to do in theory, to try to keep someone alive until the paramedics arrive. The British Heart Foundation have a free, on-line training that anyone can access. You could make a difference - saving a life must be the most important thing any one of us can do. Please have a look.... <https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/learn-cpr-in-15-minutes> .

Next year's programme will be equally varied and we hope to welcome some new faces at our meetings – held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:15pm in Bucknell Memorial Hall. Come and give us a try. We'd love to meet you.

Marion Cox - 07964 710983

News from St Mary's CE Primary School, Bucknell

Our autumn term is coming to an end. What a brilliant learning term it has been!

Pre-School - Christmas has started in our room, with lots of crafting and singing songs. The children have created beautiful decorations and written their letters to Santa. They are planning to post their letters soon. The children have enjoyed playing with the snowy train track and exploring ice in their environment.

Class One - Last Thursday afternoon the children had a brilliant time playing and learning at Forest School. Even though the temperature was cold, the children were so happy in the late autumn sunshine choosing what they wanted to do. Some played in the little dens and huts, others loved flinging the leaves of the red oak tree into the sky. Several of the children enjoyed climbing on the big tractor tyre and everyone had lots of fun.



Class Two - Last week, we enjoyed a wonderful day at Chester Zoo. We focused on finding animals that live in rain-forests around the world (but couldn't resist popping to see some other animals too!) During the day, we also took part in a Rain-forest Workshop led by a staff member from Chester



Zoo. We learnt some actions to help us remember the different layers of the rain-forest and worked together to un-jumble the word 'Deforestation' after solving challenges related to various animal groups. The lady leading the session was really impressed with the children's knowledge. The children were a credit to our Blue Hills Federation due to their fantastic attitude, engagement and behaviour.

Class Three - We represented St Mary's at the Pentabus production at St Chad's in Shrewsbury. It was an interesting day learning about what it's like behind the scenes of showbiz. All the children were amazing. They had great behaviour and patience during a long day, beautiful singing and supported each other to create an incredible performance. Mrs May was a very proud teacher. Thank you to the parents for their support, the children really benefited from this project.

A Very Happy Christmas to everyone in our school and village community!

Enjoy the holidays and time with your family and friends!

Rach Braybrooke, Lead Teacher - 3rd December 2025



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News from the Police

Crime Prevention - Lighten up your home It's that time of year again when the darker nights are upon us. A simple method of leaving a light on in your home in the evening or late at night can significantly reduce the chance of being a victim of a burglary. This time of year there is generally a peak in dwelling burglaries across the county. Thankfully we do get very few dwelling burglaries in our policing area but having a light on may help deter any opportunist thieves looking to target outbuildings.

The 'Lighten up' top security tips are:

- A well-lit home gives the impression someone is in and not unoccupied
- Use timer switches to turn lamps on when you are out
- We recommend dusk 'til dawn lighting, which is the type that stays on through the hours of darkness, switching off before the sun comes up.
- Don't just set a light on a timer in the hall or landing area, try and set the lights up in a room
- Consider other types of lighting, such as devices that simulate the light of a TV
- Invest in external lighting such as PIR lights to light up outbuildings and yards
- Always lock windows and doors and keep gates and side entrances well secured

Dogs out of control in public places

Reports of dogs being dangerously out of control in a public place have risen over recent years. It is an offence to let a dog be dangerously out of control whether that's in public

or private, for example a neighbour's

house or garden. A dog is considered to be dangerously out of control if it:

injures someone

makes someone worried that the dog might injure them

A court could also decide that a dog is dangerously out of control if:

it attacks someone's animal

the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking

If you own a dog, you are responsible for how it behaves at home and in public and should take steps to make sure that interactions with other dogs and people are safe.



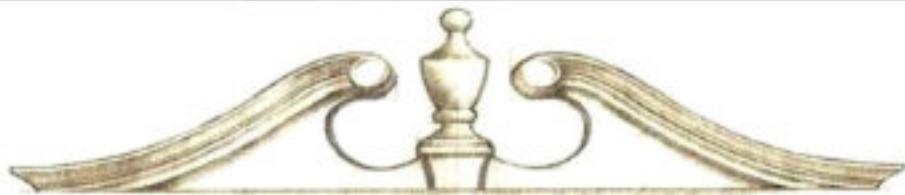
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Bucknell Newsletter - The Current Dilemma

It is with sadness, that I write this, In what might be the final Bucknell Newsletter. Over the past 12 years we have tried to produce an interesting collection of news and information about Bucknell and the surrounding area, covering past, present, and future events; to report the activities of church, school, and all the other local groups and organisations and to play its part in preserving a community spirit whereby families which have been here for many generations welcome and absorb newcomers into its distinctive ways.

Now I get to the difficult bit. The newsletter has survived, over the years by having an Editor who could spell and a Treasurer who can count. the wider team of myself, who does very little, and a lovely group of helpers contributing articles, reading proofs and delivering this finished product. The most important job is, of course that of Editor and as you would have read on page 2, David Webb, who has done a magnificent job over the past three years is about to leave us for pastures new. We have known this was coming for some time and have approached a number of potential candidates for the job. Unfortunately, without any success.

Our Treasurer, Beverley Stone, who edited the newsletter with distinction before moving into the depths of Wales, is prepared to help, but we have agreed that, in order to collect and assemble the different pieces into a reasonable form, it is essential that the new Editor should be based somewhere close to the contributors.

I am now begging for help. If you feel you might be able to offer some of your time for a very worthwhile cause, or if 2 of you would consider sharing the job - **your village needs you**. Please talk to David or me, see page 34 for contact details. I promise that there would be plenty of help for anyone coming to our rescue.

Peter Barron, Chairman.

Village Hall Update

In the last two months, the Trustees have reviewed the University architect's proposals for the internal layout of the New Hall and made suggestions now being considered by the University team. There are many factors to address when designing a multi-purpose building, so the process is taking longer than expected, but progress continues.

Once this stage is complete, the project will move to appointing technical consultants such as structural engineers, quantity surveyors and services engineers. The Hall Charity has funds set aside, but not enough for the full cost. Grant funding will be required in addition to building costs. I am preparing a business case to support applications, planned to complete before year end.

This case anticipates three stages to progress from Memorial Hall to the new Village Hall:

Transition (2025-2027) – maintain Hall; progress design approvals; secure funding.

Construction (2027-2028) – build New Hall; fundraise for fit-out; marketing drive.

Completion (target January 2029) – open New Hall; sell Memorial Hall site.

This is an ambitious programme, driven by the fact that planning approval expires in October 2027. If you want to see a new Village Hall, please support the project however you can.

Mike Alderton, Project Coordinator, Bucknell New Village Hall - December 2025

News from St Mary's Church, Bucknell

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH BUCKNELL

Your parish church is delighted to be offering three different Christmas services this year, at which all ages are very welcome. The Crib Service will be especially suitable for children.

SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER - CAROL SERVICE at 4 o'clock

CHRISTMAS EVE - CRIB SERVICE at 5.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION at 11.15am

The Rev. John Daniels will be taking our Christmas Day service. Please try and come along to at least one of these lovely events to enjoy the final countdown to Christmas in the beautiful traditional setting of your local church.

JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday 4th, 18th, 25th: Morning Prayer at 10.30am

Sunday 11th: Holy Communion at 11.15am

St Mary's is also currently without a churchwarden, but a loyal band of volunteers is working hard to keep the church running smoothly and we continue to hold a weekly service (10.30am except for the second Sunday in the month, which is a Holy Communion at 11.15am). Everyone is very welcome.

All Church enquiries should go to the Middle Marches Benefice Administrator, Margie Savery. Tel: 01547 530282 or 07929 145042. Email office.middlemarches@gmail.com

Bucknell Cemetery gets a makeover!



The hedges had been growing largely unchecked for the past seven years and the whole area definitely needed some TLC. Local tree surgeon Nicky Tranter and his team were commissioned to cut back the hedges and other foliage – a mammoth task as you can see and one that has made a real difference to the appearance of the area. Sue Demont





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Christmas Opening Hours 2025:

We will be open as normal, until 4pm on 24th December, and then we are

CLOSED: Thursday 25th December

CLOSED: Friday 26th December

and open on Saturday 27th December, until New Year, including Monday 29th December!

We are CLOSED on New Year's Day, 1st January 2026.

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.

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

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

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LOCAL Flood Group - Update

The autumn has seen the transformation of the Redlake from a dry riverbed to an at times raging torrent. Compared to some of the previous years, we have so far been spared the worst. The most significant event was linked to Storm Claudia on the 14th November. According to my weather app, 51mm of rain fell in 24 hours and this was more water than the river and drains could naturally dispose of. The depth marker at the ford hit a peak of 3ft 9inches at around 21:30 on the 14th. As rain stopped, the level had dropped to 2ft 11in at 13:00 on the 15th. Venturing out with my dog on the 15th, I was able to see first-hand the amount of water accumulated upstream from the end of Bridgend Lane.

Although water levels rose throughout the vulnerable areas in the village, I am not aware of any cases of water getting into properties. One of my Flood Group colleagues noted that Severn Trent had to upgrade a pump as the incumbent pump at the pumping station was not of sufficient capacity to deal with the water.

Steady rain since then has not pushed the level past 2ft (this was overnight on Friday 28th November into the morning of 29th with 22mm of rain overnight) and the prolonged period of rain – 19mm on my app - over Sunday 30th/Monday 1st did not push the level past 1ft 6in. The impact of rainfall seems dependent on how long it rains for and at what consistency, combined with the state of the ground and its ability to absorb run off. I was happily surprised at the lack of impact of the rain over 30th/1st. From previous experience I know that Bridgend Lane begins to flood when the ford is around 2ft 6in.

The Property Flood Resilience Fund administered by the EA is currently undertaking stage 2 surveys to assess resilience measures which are to be installed which are funded by this EA Fund. The stage 2 surveys commenced on 1st December with a planned timeline for installation from early February 2026 and completion within 6 weeks. The Fund runs until the end of March 2026. We hope that the EA may host an information session at the village hall for properties affected by flooding and eligible for the funding.



I was reminded by one of our readers of the impact on flooding which can be made worse by what we put down our drains. Fatbergs (accumulations of fat, oil, wet wipes) are a major concern. Severn Trent report that in 2024 they cleared 28,782 blocked drains - not all of which were due to fatbergs. We can all do a little bit to help this situation. When flushing the loo, use the 3P principle - pee, poop and (toilet) paper.

We can also (where it is safe to do so) keep the storm drains clear of leaves, particularly at this time of year.



David Webb, Bucknell Flood Action Group - 07545 544208

Who's Who



Bucknell Memorial Hall CIO

Chair: Mike Alderton 07376 126087

Secretary: Jim Hughes 07980 883785

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: Christine Aplin

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: Viv Dodd 01547 530 478,

Nigel Hartin 07583 962 292

Bob Hulstrom 07507 782 790 Currently 2 vacancies:

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):

Currently TWO vacancies.

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

Bedstone 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

Any and Sarah Knight

Shropshire Council - Clun Division

Councillor: Sam Walmsley 07974 707 932

Hairdressing

Sam Smith - 07528 633 450)

RGH Car Repairs

Ralph and Neil Harris - 01547 530 676

Member of Parliament for Ludlow

Stuart Anderson MP - 0207 2197731

Email: stuart.anderson.mp@parliament.uk

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
- 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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