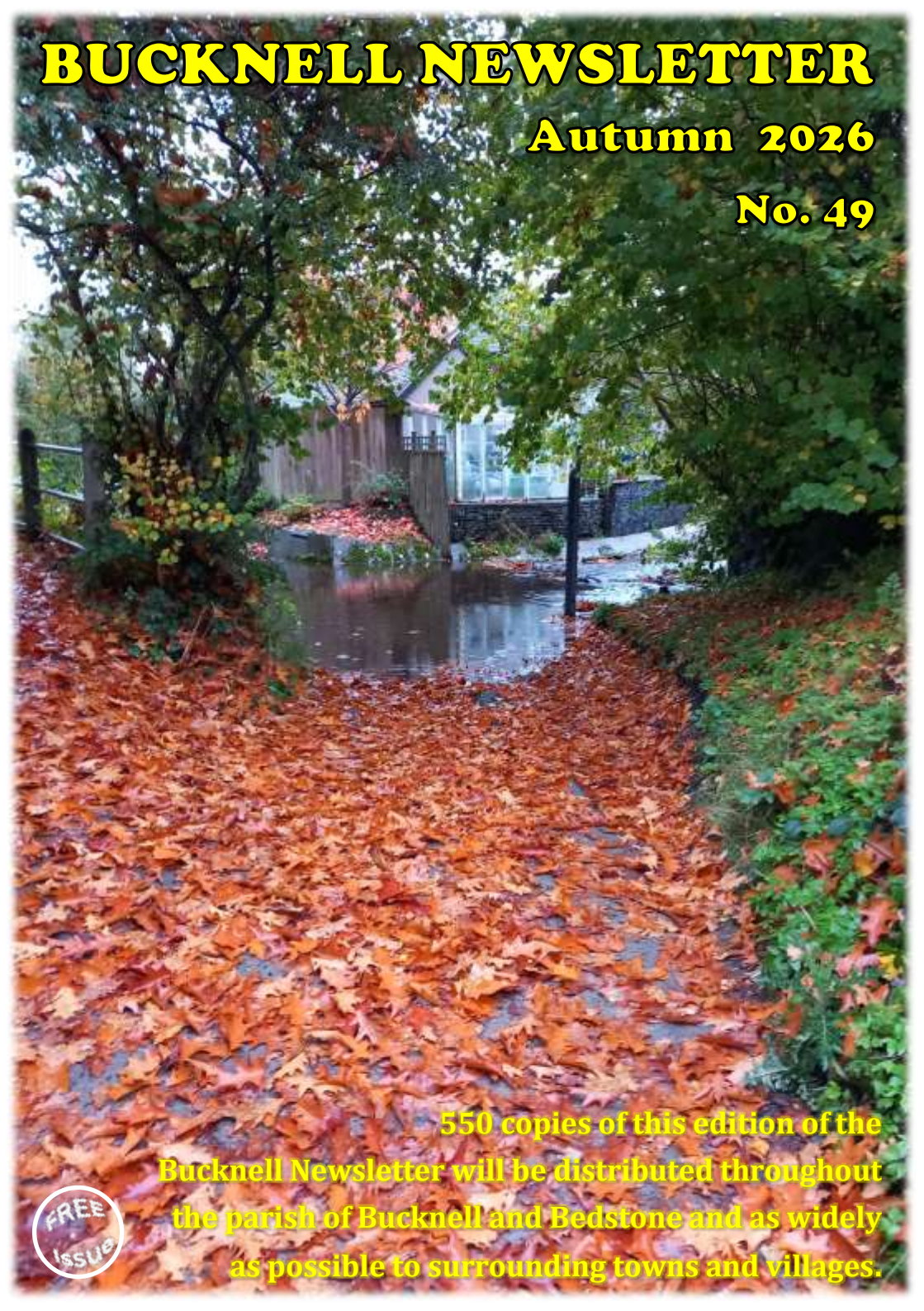


BUCKNELL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026

No. 49



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 2026



From the Editor

Following our distribution survey in June for the summer edition, it looks like we'll need to keep printing 550 copies each quarter in order to spread the Bucknell Newsletters as far and wide as we currently do. We now have a new advertiser who picked up a copy of the newsletter in Leintwardine, so welcome aboard Ian Jones (page 31).

I know I've said this before, so my apologies for repeating, but to make the Bucknell Newsletter worth publishing each quarter, we really need the residents of both Bucknell and Bedstone, and

hopefully the surrounding parishes too, to pledge articles and information for publication as early on as possible and to **advise in advance** the anticipated space required so that I know what's coming and can reserve space for it. The reason for advanced notice is to avoid the usual 'log-jam' of articles just prior to the deadline. The newsletter has to be printed in lots of four A5 pages, that's either 32, 36 or 40 pages depending on the amount of material received from its readers. I hope to reach at least 36 pages each quarter, that's nine sheets of A4 paper. With enough material, I can plan for 40 A5 pages, equal to 10 sheets of A4 paper, which is why it is so important that people indicate to me very early on, if they want to submit an article or information before the deadline, how much space that contribution will likely require.

The deadline for winter edition submissions is **Sunday 15th November 2026**. Thank you. B)

Page Index for Information and Articles

4	Advertised Services at a glance	22	Knighton Leisure Centre *
4	West Mercia Police contact details *	23-24	Fraud & Scam Bulletin - August *
7-8	Community Message Boards *	25-26	The Elan Valley Pipeline *
8	Tips & Tricks *	26	What's On in the Memorial Hall *
9	Action for Bucknell *	27	Bucknell Litter Picking Group *
11	Regular dates *	29-30	Parish Giving Scheme *
11	Bucknell Neighbourhood Watch Scheme *	30-31	Business Cards
12	The WI *	33	Bucknell Skittles Club *
12	What's On in the Bedstone Village Hall *	34-35	Sheela-na-gigs *
15	Cheerio to Bucknell *	35	Household waste recycling tips *
17	News From Your Village Church *	37	Who's Who?
19	Fraud & Scam Bulletin - July *	38	The Bucknell Newsletter page
21-22	Improve Your Digital Skills *	* Indicates contributors' articles	

Advertised Services at a glance with page nos.

Qualified and insured, tree care specialists	2
Building, landscaping & restoration service / Hair & beauty in Clun	5
Funeral services / Domestic heating oil	6
TV Aerials, satellite systems, security and digital installations / Design & printing service	10
Chimney sweeping & wood burner services / Electrical, plumbing & gas services	13
Memorials, monuments and home interior stonemasonry / Heating & Energy services	14
Electrician / Osteopathy, acupuncture and other physical health treatments	16
Carpentry, roofing and plant hire services / Home care	18
Hog roast catering	19
Local business and community support centre	20-22
Building and landscaping services	24
Building and renovation services / Interior and exterior decorators	28
Painting services / Beautician	30
Carpet and upholstery cleaning / Unisex hairdressing / Cycles sales, repairs & accessories	31
Tipper hire & aggregate supplier / House Clearance / Furniture upcycling, upholstery repairs	32
Commercial property letting and storage / Skip hire and waste management	36
Commercial and domestic electrician	39
Insurance services	40

WEST MERCIA POLICE - Bishops Castle & Rural

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are:

- Sgt 0640 Jenni Price
- PC 21989 Daryl McWatt
- PC21006 Simon Wilkey
- PCSO 40516 Calvin Brown
- PCSO 6160 Shaun Culliss

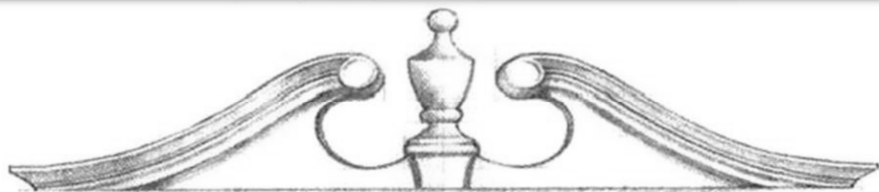
Team email: bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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



Emergencies - 999
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COMMUNITY MESSAGE BOARD

This is a new feature for residents of Bucknell and Bedstone to post their own messages to the local community and for volunteer groups to reach out as well. Editor

Gemma Davies puts Bucknell on the Running Map *by Wayne Davies*

Village resident Gemma Davies recently completed her second London Marathon, back in April after previously taking part back in 2023. Gem took up running when she met new friends through local playgroups after her children Finley and Leah were born about 15 years ago. To begin with, the runs were enjoyed for the social aspect as much as to keep fit, but as time went on the runs got



longer resulting in the girls joining Croft Ambrey, a local running club and participating in several 10k runs, various half marathons and then marathons beginning with the Manchester Marathon and then the London marathons making her family and friends very proud of her.

Knighton and District Rotary Club

We are a small group who share fun and friendship while supporting our local communities around Knighton, Presteigne and villages of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Powys.

We are seeking to recruit new members with a strong interest in social media, news media, interpersonal communications and IT.

Continues

Our club is part of the Rotary family extending to over 1.5 million men and women members worldwide who want to try and put something back into Society. Our club supports many local and international causes including Polio Eradication, Shelterbox Disaster Relief, Water Aid, Local Air Ambulances, Hospices and local community groups.

We are a very active group of individuals, however, we need to promote our activities by composing and publishing regular newsletters, photos and articles in both social and mainstream news media. This is where we need help from members with a strong interest in composing and communicating text and images and a passion for supporting good causes.

If you think this is a challenge you might enjoy or would like to find out more about joining Knighton Rotary and how you can help, please get in touch via our website, find us on social media or email knightonrotary@outlook.com.

Thank you.

Mortimer Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Friends of the Mortimer Medical Practice Coffee morning at Kingsland Methodist Chapel Saturday 12th September 10:30-12:00 in aid of Kingsland, Leintwardine and Orleton surgeries.

People not attending their booked appointments in July numbered 114. The Practice requests that if mobile or landline telephone numbers are changed, could you inform them please.

Anima online booking system.

The Practice have had an online meeting to see if they can streamline things to make it easier for patients.

Staff Training 14th October.

All surgeries and dispensaries will close at 12 noon. Kingsland reception and dispensary will re-open at 4pm.

Phone lines will remain open plus Anima requests will continue as normal.

Tips & Tricks is a new feature for people to send in their tips and tricks for anything that could be of benefit to others and, maybe save them money too.



~~ An Easy Way to Clean Silver ~~

- Use a bowl/container big enough to contain the item.
- Line the container with tin foil.
- Fill with boiling water.
- Add enough bicarbonate of soda to create a fizz.
- Place item in the container and leave for 2-3 minutes.
- Remove item, rinse and dry.

Geri Jackson - 23rd August 2026

A NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

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Proud to be printing and supporting the Bucknell Newsletter

REGULAR DATES

	Days	Event	Venue & Time	Contact
WEEKLY	Monday	Bedstone Art Group	Bedstone Village Hall 10:30 - 13:00	Anne Holding 01584 874 857
	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 042 350
	Thursday	Boules May - August	Daffodil Lane (Opposite side to the playing field)	Sylvia & Derek Meredith 01547 530 422
FORTNIGHTLY	Monday	Bucknell Walkers	Lych Gate St. Mary's Church 09:00 - sharp!	Mike Starr 01547 530 179
	Wednesday	Mobile Library Service	Belmont Garage end of the Causeway 14:15 - 14:35	Shropshire Library Service 01743 255 024
	Thursday	Skittles September - May	Memorial Hall 19:30	Sylvia & Derek Meredith 01547 530 422
MONTHLY	First Wednesday	Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council	Variable venues - see parish notice boards 19:30	Carol Davies Chairman 07774 428 373
	Third Wednesday	Women's Institute	Bucknell Memorial Hall 7:15pm	Mic Blake 07835 386 335
YEARLY	Bucknell Show 2027 TBA			
Please keep me informed of any changes or additions to the above activities and venues. Editor Last update 22/05/26				



Bucknell Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

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

Telephone: Jim Hughes on 01547 530 077 or 07980 883 785
or Email: hughes_jim@msn.com

It's been a hot and busy summer for the Bucknell WI. In July our speaker, Kate McLanachan, told us about the history of Shropshire's Shelton Hospital. Built in 1845 to house the mentally ill, the building changed usages and names many times, and is now converted into luxury flats. Kate recounted tales of many staff and patients who lived at the hospital, as well as several stories of ghosts and apparitions allegedly witnessed over time in the building and grounds.

We had fun at the Bucknell Open Mic event on the 8th of August, selling drinks and ice cream plus our own home-baked cakes to the audience and performers. The weather was perfect, not too hot, and it was great to see so many people relaxing and having a good time in the village. As usual we take a break from our Wednesday evening meeting in August, and arrange a trip out for all members. This year it was a visit to Monkland Dairy, to see how they make their range of delicious hand-made cheeses.

We were made very welcome, and the tour included a chance to sample all the various options. We saw the whole process from milk to the final storage room with racks of cheese ready to go. It was followed by lunch in the cafe, where many of us enjoyedmore cheese.

In addition we have had trips to see films and eat lunch at Acton Scott plus we met up to share crafting skills at a new Craft & Coffee morning. Next month, as members of the Clun Valley South WI group we shall be meeting up with other local WI groups for a social evening, with entertainment and competitions. WI competitions are a little less strict these days, so we are encouraged to contribute paper craft items, jams, floral arrangements, and this year, 2 large buns (think 'Calendar Girls', we are advised).

Mic Blake (WI President) - 20th August 2026

WHAT'S ON IN THE BEDSTONE & HOPTON CASTLE VILLAGE HALL 2026

Sunday 6 th September	12-2pm. £10 Buffet Lunch - Scrumptious food & yummy puddings. Bar.
Saturday 19 th September	7:00 pm for 7:30pm start. £10 An evening with Jane Petals. "Floral Chocolate Fantasy" . Florest & Entertainer - National Demonstrator. Bar. Raffle.
Friday 2 nd October	7:00 pm for 7:30pm start. 'Mustard' . John Osborne presents a history of mustard from Romans to Colemans! As heard on BBC Radio 4. £12 / £6. Bar. Refreshments including mustard! Arts Alive rural touring. www.artsalive.co.uk
Friday 16 th October	7:00 pm for 7:30pm start. FLICKS IN THE STICKS. 'SONG SUNG BLUE' A must for Neil Diamond fans and music lovers. £5. Refreshments.

We will also have a fun quiz in November and another FILM in December so look out for posters and online.

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Cheerio to Bucknell

We can trace our visits to Bucknell back to 1983. I was talking to a colleague in London County Hall about holidays and was asked if I knew Ron Chambers, also a colleague, who owned Willow Cottage, Bucknell, a village in Shropshire that I had never heard of at that point. A quick introduction and our holiday for that year was sorted. Our children were only three, six and nine at that time, Ladywell and the bungalows in Redlake Meadow were not built and there were two general shops in the village as well as a fish and chip shop.

We visited Bucknell most years. By 2007, Ron and Pat, who had moved permanently from Petts Wood near Orpington to Dog Kennel Lane some 20 years earlier, decided to sell Willow Cottage and we took the opportunity to buy it, having retired four years earlier, thinking it would make a good holiday home for perhaps a few years.

Eighteen years later and we thought it was time to return full time to Orpington. Being 'townies' we don't see ourselves living permanently in Bucknell and, in our advancing years, the journey of some 200 miles (or several changes of train) no longer has the appeal it once did.

We have spent a good 18 years in Bucknell spending a week to 10 days here each month. We have got to know lots of people as well as much of the Shropshire and Welsh towns and countryside.

When in the village we have enjoyed taking part in a variety of local activities, for example, church services, attending parish council meetings, concerts, Pop-in-Café coffee mornings etc. We have also supported local businesses and even, though we are 'outsiders', we have been welcomed by everyone.



Our official last day in Bucknell was 24th June, but we have had to return to collect the household items and other junk we could not get in the car. I don't think that we can permanently forget Bucknell, so we expect to come back periodically to say hello.

We shall also continue to find out what is happening via the Bucknell Facebook Page, parish council minutes, and occasional phone calls.

Our thanks to everyone for being so kind to us and our best wishes to you all for the future.

Jean and Brian Willson - 12th July 2026

Shaun Dutton - Electrician

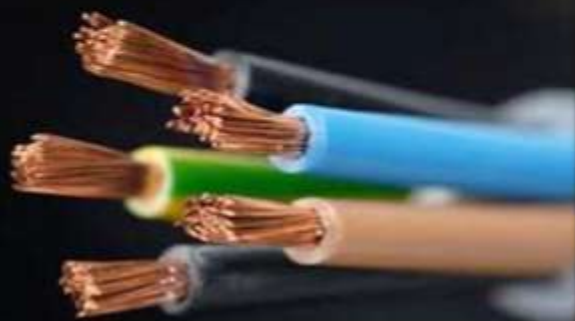
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NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

St Mary's Bucknell has had a busy and fulfilling few months. Particularly pleasing has been the steady increase in attendance at Sunday services, now averaging about 25 every week, swelled in the summer by visitors and holidaymakers who appreciate the warm welcome they receive from church members. The growing numbers are a real testimony to the PCC and the many hardworking volunteers who keep the church running smoothly and in good condition.

Autumn is always an important season for our church. In October we gather together with our primary school to celebrate Harvest Festival, a particularly important occasion in our rural community. The following month we honour the fallen of the First and Second World Wars, again involving the school, at a moving ceremony at the village war memorial. Do look out for these special services. September's services are:

Sunday 13th : Holy Communion at 11:15am (with the Archdeacon of Hereford).

Sunday 20th : Morning Prayer at 10:30am. **Sunday 27th** : Morning Prayer at 10:30am.



Faithful attendee: Charlotte the Golden Retriever is one of our most regular worshippers; and is always immaculately behaved!

Sue Demont

23rd August 2026

On a lighter note, the church plays an important role in the annual School Leavers' Service, when our Year 6 pupils mark their transition from primary to secondary school. Former staff member Janet Hartin writes, "We are lucky to have a village primary school in Bucknell and blessed that the school comes to St. Mary's Church for all its most important occasions. Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter are all celebrated in church and every pupil joins in our annual Remembrance Day service".

Prayer Group and Bible Study

In addition to Sunday worship, we hold a monthly Prayer Group Meeting along with St. Mary's Chapel Lawn on the last Friday of each month at 2 o'clock and we now also have a Bible Study Group which has been meeting on an ad hoc basis through the summer months. All are very welcome - details from PCC members.





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The Fraud and Scam Bulletin - July 2026

Your monthly update direct from West Mercia Police on the latest scams and frauds

IS IT REALLY THE POLICE CALLING YOU?

There has been a significant rise recently of cold callers phoning residents and claiming to be Police Officers. This not only applies to West Mercia area but nationally as well.

One of the more common identities claims to be a Detective from Holborn Police Station in London though they very often mispronounce the word "Holborn".

Fraudsters impersonate the police to scare you into action by pretending to be a voice of authority. They will also add a tone of urgency but always stop and think. If you are not sure then seek advice from a trusted friend or relative, or phone 101 to check the person's identity. .

"You have been a victim of fraud" - some Fraudsters will tell you that they are contacting you due to a fraud investigation where you are supposedly the victim. They may say they have found a counterfeit item, such as a passport, with your name on it. Other times, they will say that there has been unauthorised use of your bank account or your credit card. You are then asked to provide your details to confirm that it was your card that was stolen.

After the fraudster receives the details, they will use them to withdraw money from the victims' accounts. In some cases, they may use the storyline that they are investigating a fraudulent member of the bank staff and ask you to withdraw a sum of money in notes from your bank for someone to come round and collect. Ignore such requests and put the phone down.

They may then tell you to dial "999" to check their identities but, as they are able to keep the line open, you are still speaking to the same person or one of their partners. Police officers will never contact you out of the blue and request personal or financial information. If an officer contacts you in person, then they should show you their Warrant Card first.

Similarly, before contacting your bank to report the fraud, wait at least ten minutes to ensure the line is clear. You can also clear the line by calling a friend or family member or by using a different phone than the one on which you were contacted.

However, if you accidentally shared your bank details or handed over your card to a courier, call your bank immediately. You can reach your bank's fraud department directly by dialling 159.



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Improve Your Digital Skills: Get Online, Stay Connected and Build Confidence

With more services going online than ever before, it can feel daunting to do the things you used to do on paper or in person. Even everyday paperwork now seems to come with multiple digital steps, while tasks that were simple can now make you feel like you need to be an IT expert! However, local support is available if you know where to look. Local community hubs and libraries are the perfect places to get more information on the kind of support available in your area, from advice, practical help, local courses and programmes to online resources.

Enterprise House has been providing business and community support to South West Shropshire for over 30 years. Part of our service includes local digital support to help people get online, stay connected and feel more confident in this ever-increasing digital world.



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We offer personalised, one to one support and group sessions to help you use your digital devices with confidence. Whether you would like help with everyday tasks, have a specific problem, think you may have been scammed, or would like to sit with someone as they guide you through a process at your own pace, we are here to help.

Free One to One Support

Enterprise House is thrilled to announce the return of our Digital Skills Programme; an initiative dedicated to helping people build confidence and independence in an increasingly digital world.

These free one to one sessions are friendly and informal, giving you the skills you need to access essential services, download apps, book appointments, keep in touch with loved ones and generally feel more confident using everyday technology.

Sit with one of our dedicated volunteers, in a relaxed environment, and learn more about your mobile, tablet or laptop. Each session is tailored to you, so you can focus on the things you want to learn.

One of our previous learners said, "Having somewhere to go to ask questions, learn new skills, and sometimes just get reassurance that I'm doing the right thing makes all the difference. Everyone should have an Enterprise House on their doorstep."

The Digital Skills Programme is available to Shropshire adults who fall within one or more of the following categories: Aged 65+, Individuals Living Alone, Unpaid Carers, Individuals Receiving Care, and anyone with health conditions or on means-tested benefits. Spots fill up fast, so please get in touch to ensure you don't miss out on this opportunity.

Continues

Free Digital Help Hub

Every third Thursday of the month, Enterprise House also runs a free Digital Help Hub; a relaxed, friendly drop-in session, where you can have a coffee and a chat with one of our volunteers, ask questions on a specific problem, or discuss ideas and solutions to everyday digital challenges.

Now operating as Rural Lifeline C.I.C., Enterprise House continues to support sustainable, inclusive and vibrant communities across South West Shropshire and the borders. Working alongside local groups, organisations and businesses, we provide community support, business services, a print shop, including the Library, SpArC Theatre, Village Outreach Equipment Hire, office and workshop rentals and multi-use games area. Alongside these established services, we also run the Bishop's Castle and Beyond visitor website and Local Directory to help promote local businesses, events and community connections in the area. For more information about any of our support, pop into Enterprise House, call us on 01588 638038 and have a chat with us, or email us at: info@enterprisehouse.org.uk and we'll get in touch.

Polly Owen, Manager, Rural Lifeline C.I.C. - 28th June 2026

Knighton Leisure Centre

Knighton Sports Centre, operated by Freedom Leisure on behalf of Powys County Council, is more than just a leisure facility, it's a vibrant hub at the heart of the community, bringing together people of all ages to stay active, healthy, and connected.

At the centre of its offering is an outstanding swimming programme, designed to build confidence and develop essential life skills. The swimming lessons at Knighton are a key highlight, welcoming beginners through to advanced swimmers in a supportive and friendly environment. With experienced instructors and a Swim Wales accredited pathway, children and adults alike can progress at their own pace, making swimming both enjoyable and rewarding. It's not just about learning to swim, it's about building confidence in the water for life.

Beyond the pool, Knighton Sports Centre boasts a well-equipped gym, perfect for anyone looking to improve their fitness. Whether you're starting your journey or pushing towards new goals, the inclusive atmosphere and range of equipment make it easy to stay motivated. Complementing this is a varied timetable of group exercise classes, from high-energy workouts to more relaxed, wellbeing-focused sessions, there's something for everyone.

For those who enjoy a competitive edge, the centre's squash courts offer a fantastic way to stay active while having fun. And when it comes to celebrations, Knighton is also a popular choice for children's parties, providing a safe, exciting space for unforgettable birthdays.

With its wide range of activities and welcoming community feel, Knighton Sports Centre truly has something for everyone. Whether you're making a splash with swimming lessons, coming for a swim, hitting the gym, joining a class, or celebrating a special occasion, it's the perfect place to get active and stay connected.

Find out more: <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/knighton/>

The Fraud and Scam Bulletin - August 2026

Your monthly update direct from West Mercia Police on the latest scams and frauds

What are your children doing this summer?

What's almost certain is that they'll be going online more than in term time ... for entertainment, keeping in contact and chatting with their friends, gaming, and the multitude of other things kids use the Internet for. With all the additional time spent doing more online, how can you be sure that the young people in your family are safe from the issues they can encounter every day?

There are a host of social networking sites available online and many of these sites use live video as a means to communicate or involve sending photos. This leaves the way open for people to send images which may be inappropriate.

Check out these easy-to-follow tips to help your child enjoy a safe and confident experience online.

- Chat regularly with your child about what they do online and get them to show you. Get to know about recent technologies and trends. Talk about the potential positives, such as learning and staying in contact with family and friends, as well as negatives such as oversharing, seeing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, stranger danger, uncontrolled spending of money and spending too much time online. Set a good example yourself.
- Steer your child towards safe searching, websites, and apps. Check what they are watching and/or sharing on streaming sites like YouTube and TikTok. Encourage them to use child-friendly platforms like YouTube Kids.
- Gaming, social media, picture/video sharing and many other apps and websites have lower age limits for a reason, so you should make sure your child does not access those when they are underage.
- Download apps only from recognised sources like App Store and Google Play. Add your own email address when setting up accounts and apps for your child.
- Discuss and agree boundaries and rules from a young age, including appropriate online usage, always being respectful and how much time they spend online. Empower them but remember they do not have the experience or maturity to always make the right decisions.
- Consider setting up parental control software and apps on computers, mobile devices and games consoles, privacy features on social networking sites, safety options on search engines and safe location settings on devices and apps. Turn on your ISP's family filters.
- Stay familiar with new game and social media trends, especially those attracting negative publicity because they may be violent, encourage gambling or leave the way open for messaging random strangers, enabling hence potential grooming or other types of coercion.
- For video calls, ensure your child's safety by updating to the platform's latest version, following its safety advice, and checking that call invitations and replies can't be seen by anybody outside the agreed call group.

Continues

- Online gaming is widely recognised as having many developmental benefits for young people but talk to them about potential negatives like chatting to strangers, in-game purchases (like loot boxes, skins, and cheats), and overdoing screen time.
- Talk to your child about misinformation, disinformation, and fake news. Tell them not to believe or share everything they see or read, especially in these days of sponsored 'news' and AI-generated images, videos, and text.
- Warn your child about confidential information, personal details and images/video about themselves or others they share in posts, profiles, messages, and chats. Consider what you share yourself.
- Without being controlling, keep an eye on your child's online activities and know how to recognise the signs of something not being right. For example, criminals have exploited increased online use for recruiting children into illegal activities such as cybercrime and drug muling.

For more information,

www.getsafeonline.org/personal/article-category/safeguarding-children

Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.

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THE ELAN VALLEY PIPELINE

The 1891 census recorded Birmingham as having a population of 478,113. The city was booming and a secure water supply was needed. So, in 1892, the Birmingham Corporation Water Act was passed, which enabled the city to purchase 72 square miles of the Elan valley in Wales. In 1893 construction started on the Elan Valley pipeline, a water conduit stretching 73 miles to the Frankland reservoir in Birmingham. It was completed 10 years later at a cost of £6 million (about £1 billion in today's money – HS2 please note!). Initially it consisted of two 42" pipes but two 62" pipes were added later as Birmingham grew. The water flow of 2 mph is achieved solely by gravity with an overall drop of 50 metres, which is all the more remarkable when you consider how hilly the terrain is that it passes through.

To achieve this the engineers had to bore fifteen tunnels, construct forty masonry valley crossings and eleven major inverted siphons. You may remember back in 2015-2019, the so-called Birmingham Resilience Project commenced, involving three new tunnels being bored at Nantmel, Bleddfa and Knighton, using a modern tunnel boring machine, to provide a diversion for the sections that were worn out. For the most part, however, the pipeline sits just below the surface and was constructed using the "cut and cover" method, in which a brick-lined channel was dug as a trench then roofed over.



You may be interested to know that the pipeline passes very close to Bucknell, buried in the hillside of Brampton Bryan Park, just beyond the Turnpike (see red line on map).

At the time of its construction Bucknell was without a regular water supply and so tapping into the pipeline was seriously considered, but eventually deemed too expensive.

The map also mentions a "sluice valve" and a "washout chamber".

These can be found at regular intervals all the way to Birmingham, allowing the water flow to be controlled and for sediment and debris to be removed. Where a siphon was used to cross a valley a pressure relief valve had to be incorporated, to relieve any build-up of pressure in the pipeline that could impair the water flow.

On a recent walk on Titterstone Clee Hill I came across Studley pillar, just down the slope from Clee Hill village. It looks very much like a trig pillar, except that it is much larger. The early surveyors must have been dismayed to find the highest hill in Shropshire stood squarely in the way of the proposed route for the pipeline.



To avoid having to skirt the hill, therefore, they decided to go straight through it! To do this they had to mark out the route precisely, hence the position of the survey pillar. Similar observation and survey towers can be found at Bleddfa and Llangunllo. It should be remembered that the project necessitated the demolition of some forty four properties in the Elan Valley, including eighteen farms, a school and a church. In their place a township of wooden huts was built to accommodate some of the 50,000 men it took to complete the job, some with their families.



Looking beyond Studley pillar, in the valley below, is one of the many stone-built bridges – Cornbrook Aqueduct.

This is a massive structure, typical of the Victorian mentality of building something to last.

Even so, repairs and maintenance have been needed from time to time to attend to movement in the sandstone structure over the 120+ years of its existence.

If you continue your walk past Studley pillar round the hill to Hope Bagot, you are greeted by the similarly imposing Hope Bagot Aqueduct. By the time World War II was over, Birmingham's water consumption had increased to the point where another dam was need in the Welsh valleys. From 1946-1952 the river Claerwen was dammed, with the aid of Italian stonemasons, given that British stonemasons were busy reconstructing post-war London.

This doubled the capacity of the reservoirs that feed Birmingham. As part of the aforementioned Birmingham Resilience Project, another pipeline was installed to transport water from the river Severn, providing an essential back-up in case that from the Elan Valley requires attention. After all, it is 123 years old.

Mike Starr - 16th July 2026



What's Happening in the Bucknell Memorial Hall?

See <https://bucknellvillagehall.co.uk/events/> for more information

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 15/09/26 | 19:00 - 21:00 > Bucknell Memorial Hall AGM |
| 19/09/26 | 19:30 > Tamsin Ball - Musical entertainment - Tickets £10.00 , bar. |
| 20/09/26 | 14:00 > The Amazing Maurice - Animated fantasy comedy. Tickets £5.00 / £2.50 |
| 31/10/26 | 18:00-19:00 > Childrens Halloween Disco Party - £1.00 under 16's, snacks/drinks. |
| 31/10/26 | 19:30 > Halloween Disco Party - Lady DJ - Tickets £10.00 - Optional fancy dress. |
| 21/11/26 | 19:30 > Innocent Criminals - A Shropshire band - Tickets £10.00 , bar. |
| 05/12/26 | 19:30 > Rhayader Male Voice Choir - Tickets £10.00 . |

THE BUCKNELL LITTER PICKING GROUP



As we enjoy the last bits of summer, we are moving into the beautiful autumn light and colours. During the summer, we have lots of visitors who love to go on walks, enjoy bike rides or simply soak up the tranquil atmosphere while winding down from their busy lives. We feel it is great to contribute to their holiday vibes by presenting them with a litter-free village.

Many villagers and visitors are keen photographers, and they love to capture our beautiful countryside.

When taking photographs of our stunning views, you don't want any litter spoiling your beautiful pictures, do you? On the 27th of May, we had a fantastic turnout! Ten people showed up on a lovely sunny morning, so we managed to cover the whole village again. It is so nice to see that, besides the regulars, different people join us each time.

So much of the litter we find is recyclable. Plastic bottles and cans make up the majority of what we collect. We also come across more concerning items, such as glass bottles and vapes, especially with the wildfires going on.



The latter two could potentially cause a fire. The sweltering Monday morning, the 22nd of June, was the date of our next session, and seven people from the village decided to disregard the high temperatures. They deserve a big round of applause for choosing to put litter picking above their own comfort. You know who you are when you read this. Just know that you are absolute heroes!

We went out again on Monday the 17th of August. There were five of us, so we managed to cover most of the village. While I was clearing some of the vegetation around the Bucknell sign, I noticed a lot of litter that must have been thrown out of cars. A very sad discovery, but I was happy that it was cleared up.



Many thanks for reading this article! We would also like to say thank you for all the positive reactions we receive via Facebook or in person. They are much appreciated. If you would like more information about the Bucknell Litter Picking Group just give me a bell on 07861 206 400

Sandra Gill-Mol - 20th August 2026

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PARISH GIVING SCHEME

There are various charities that I give to each month by Direct Debit. Some of these are really tiny amounts, as little as £4 or £5 per month. I assume that, as there are probably thousands of other people giving small amounts regularly, that these tiny amounts are still worthwhile.

I also give regularly to our village church through the **Parish Giving Scheme**. It is really important to me that St Mary's church should continue to serve the village community. It is there for all of us, whether you like to worship regularly, or love to use the Pop-in-Café, just like to look around a beautiful building, to come somewhere cooler out of the heat, or if you enjoy the social events such as David and Roger's entertaining quiz evenings.



I absolutely love going to the school services where the children take the lead. I am so pleased that the school makes use of the church. The church is always there for the momentous life events: Christenings, Weddings and Funerals. It would be hard if the church wasn't there for these important times. Even though we do not currently have our own vicar, we are lucky that there are some dedicated caring retired vicars who will lead these services and who inspire us when they provide Holy Communion for us.

However, historic buildings need careful maintenance. We are lucky that we have had some practical people on the PCC and among our congregation. They have adjusted the church clock when necessary, installed new parts to keep our ground source heat pump working, shaved wood off the bottom of the doors when the new carpet was to be fitted, removed ivy and all other types of greenery from around the base of the church walls to give adequate clearance for air vents. Volunteers have done the more unpleasant jobs too such as rodding the external foul and storm drainage systems to keep them clear and free flowing.

Some jobs need external experts which is costly. The church organ is tuned annually and extra work to the pipes was recommended at a cost of £1,686.00. The church clock was serviced by The Cumbria Clock Company and we are most grateful to the Parish Council for sharing the cost of this with us. The church has had its regular electrical inspection which included recommendations for work to the lightning protection of the church building, the cost for installing earth resistance would be £652.00 +VAT.

The cemetery, which is the PCC's responsibility, incurred a large expense totalling £5200 covering the cutting of the grass, mole catching and the surrounding hedges being cut back. The hedges hadn't been cut for some years and required extensive work which took a team approximately three days to complete. Architect Candida Pino carried out the Quinquennial inspection in June, we now await her report and hope that she doesn't recommend too much additional work is needed. It is time to renew our buildings insurance, the lowest premium

we have been able to find is £1,946 for one year. These costs are paid for by the collections in the church plate, and by our fundraising events and by a donation from the Company of Grocers. We are not subsidised by the Church of England Hereford Diocese. Indeed, we contribute £7,000 per year to their work and expenses. The share that we contributed has been more, as much as £11,000 per year before Covid when the number of worshippers and the amount given in the plate was higher. Despite having vacancies for ministers, the Diocese still has many costs; fees to voluntary ministers, support for church schools, upkeep of and

improvements to clergy housing, training of new ordinands and curates, pensions for retired clergy, legal costs, etc.

I am asking you to consider whether you would be able to make regular payments, no matter how small, so that our church can continue to be there, in good condition, for whenever and however you need it. There are leaflets about the Parish Giving Scheme in the church or you could speak to anyone on the PCC about this, or you can find information online:

www.hereford.anglican.org/parish-support/generous-giving/parish-giving-scheme/

Our church is beautiful and has been here in the centre of our village for hundreds of years.

I hope that you appreciate it too.

Janet Hartin - 31st July 2026

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Bucknell Skittles Club have had another good season for 2025 / 2026 and, although we have lost a couple members, there were still 30 in the Skittles Club. Last November we got together at the Grove Bowling near Leominster where we enjoyed one hour of Ten Pin Bowling followed by an excellent lunch. We have been going there for about 15 years and it is always an enjoyable day out for our members.

Every year we played against Brampton Bryan British Legion to help raise funds for them but as the Legion is no longer functioning, the Shield is now played for with the men versus the ladies. Sadly we have lost Mick and Sue Davies who have moved back to Nottinghamshire. They have been with us for some ten years and will be very much missed. The Club would like to wish them all the best for the future.



Competition Winners for 2025 / 2026

Event	Winner(s)	Runner(s) Up
Mixed doubles	Shirley Bowen / Martin Aplin	Sue Davies / Roger Bates
Ladies doubles	Maria Aplin / Jean Wood	Shirley Bowen / Alison Pettit
Mens doubles	Roger Bates / Paul Aplin	Len Barrett / Martin Aplin
Ladies vs Men for the British Legion Shield	Men	Ladies
Ladies singles	Sue Davies	Trica Hopkins
Mens singles	Ian Hopkins	Derek Meredith
Ladies highest score	Sue Davies	Sue Price
Mens highest score	Derek Meredith	Martin Aplin.



We start the new season in September and finish in May 2027, we then start playing Petanque with all the money going to the Midland Air Ambulance.

If you would like have a go, please come along, your first night will be free. Our AGM will be at the end of May, or ring me on 07929 597 969.

Derek Meredith - 9th July 2026
Photos from Paul Aplin

Sheela-na-gigs

If you look at an old building, say a church or castle, you shouldn't be surprised to find they are often adorned with stone carvings known as grotesques. Unlike gargoyles, that are functional and act as rainwater spouts, grotesques are purely ornamental. These are generally decorative sculptures of fantastical animal or human figures.



However, sheela-na-gigs are different. These are crude carved stone figures, often found in no particular place on churches, featuring a naked female form in a somewhat explicit and unflattering sexual pose. It is believed there are 45 such carvings in the UK, but there may be many more which cannot be authenticated owing to their poor condition as a result of erosion over the

intervening centuries. Believed to originate from medieval times, probably the 11th-12th centuries, we have no idea who the stonemasons were who created these strange sculptures, as no written records exist from those times.

However, there is no shortage of theories as to what they might represent. Some believe they are a warning against sin and corruption, others that they are fertility symbols celebrating childbirth. Alternatively they may indicate a pagan goddess or



perhaps were intended to warn off evil spirits. Whatever their purpose, it just so happens there are quite a few to be found nearby on churches in The Welsh Marches, four of which are illustrated here.

If you venture up the Corve valley as far as Holdgate, you will see a sheela-na-gig on the south facing wall of the chancel. In nearby Tugford, if you turn round as you enter the church you will see two stone figures, mounted just above head height, one on either side of the doorway.

Just up the road in Diddlebury, the church boasts a number of carvings of animal heads, including one of a muzzled bear, as

well as what appears to be the remains of two badly-weathered sheela-na-gigs. In Church Stretton, St. Laurence's church has a sheela-na-gig on the north face of the building above a Norman doorway. The one in Kilpeck, Herefordshire, is another fine example and is just one of 89 corbel carvings on the 12th century church.

Apparently it is not uncommon for such carvings to be removed from one location and installed elsewhere, as seems likely at Holdgate, when the existing church was built on the site of an earlier one. No two churches are the same, and if you take the trouble to look beyond the imposing structure of the building itself it can be the finer details that yield some hidden surprises.

Mike Starr - 16th July 2026

Household Waste - Recycling Tips

Luckily in Bucknell, we are having our recycling picked up every two weeks, not like the poor folk in Birmingham!! We can now also recycle Tetrapak packs such as juice and milk cartons.

Effective household recycling requires three core habits: keeping items clean, removing plastic films, and not bagging up items. The main thing many people don't realise is that all containers (including all our wine bottles etc) must be cleaned before being put in the recycling bin. If they are dirty or have liquid in, they will contaminate the entire lorry load of recycling and all of it will have to be sent straight to landfill.

Here are the three key things to remember when recycling to make sure our recycling can actually get recycled, and isn't contaminating the whole recycling lorry:

- ✓ Clean, Empty, and Dry: You do not need to scrub, but items must be free of food residue.
- ✓ Keep It Loose: Never bag your recycling. Put items directly into the bin so sorting machinery can process them.
- ✓ Remove Film: Tear off the plastic film from food trays and plastic pots; this material tangles in sorting machinery.

How to prep your recycling...

- ✓ Cardboard: Flatten all boxes and break down large pieces to save space in your blue bag.
- ✓ Tins and Foil: Scrunch household foil into a tennis ball shape to help sensors detect it. Drop small metal lids inside larger metal tins.
- ✓ Plastic Bottles: Leave the caps screwed on tightly so they do not get lost in the sorting process.

Where to Find More Help

To become a master recycler and check specific rules for our neighbourhood in Bucknell, use the national Recycle Now Recycling Locator. For more actionable ideas on improving your everyday sustainability, check out the Recycling Bins Our Guide to Making Recycling Easy

Happy recycling!!



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Who's Who - See also Regular Dates



Bucknell Memorial Hall CIO

Chair: Mike Alderton - 07376 126 087
 Secretary: Jim Hughes - 07980 883 785
 Treasurer: Dorothy Edwards - 01547 530 252
 Bookings: Christine Price - 01547 530 249
 Event Coordinator: Leonard Barrett - 07973 548 220

Bucknell Women's Institute

President: Mic Blake - 07835 386 335
 Email : michelblake17@gmail.com
 Secretary: Christine Aplin
 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: 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
 Anne Cummings - 01547 530 977
 Colin Cummings - 01547 530 977
 Harvey Sherwood - 01588 671 432

BEDSTONE

Councillor(s): Chris Savery - 07855 885 309
 Plus one vacancy currently.

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.

Priest-in-Charge: TBA
 Bucknell Churchwarden(s): Two vacancies currently.

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
 Email : Hughes_jim@msn.com

Bucknell Allotment Association

Chair: Colin Carter - 07952 147 627
 Secretary: Claire Carter - 07777 137 394
 Treasurer: Sue Greenan

The Sitwell Arms

Andy and Sarah Knight - 01547 530 213

Community First Responders

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

Clun Valley AED Scheme (Defibrillator)

Ian Owen - 01547 530 616

Bucknell Flood Action Group

David Webb - 07545 544 208

St. Mary's Primary School, Bucknell

Telephone: 01547 530 264
 Website: www.bucknellprimaryschool.org

Greens Garage

The Bucknell Newsletter

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

- Chair Peter Barron - 01547 530 206
- Editor and Treasurer Beverley Stone - 07484 280 259 (Voicemail available)
- Proof-reading and distribution A band of loyal volunteer helpers - thank you all.

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

We aim to print in early March, June, September and December so articles, photographs, parish information and new advertisements for inclusion need to be received by the third week of the previous month at the very latest. Distribution will commence shortly after the print-run.

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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