

What's on in Bucklesham?

Carpet Bowls	Monday Evenings	Village Hall
Bucklesham Players	Tuesday Evenings	Village Hall
Bucklesham Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Group	Thursday Mornings 9:30 til 11:30	Village Hall
Ladies' Group	2 nd Thursday of Month	Various Venues
Church Lunch	4 th Tuesday of Month 12:00 for 12:30	Village Hall
Community Singing Group	Alternate Wednesdays 7:30-8:30	St Mary's Church
St Mary's Church Library	1 st Monday of Month 10am-12pm	St Mary's Church
Women's Institute	3 rd Wednesday of Month	Village Hall
Knit and Natter	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays of Month	Village Hall

To ask for your details to be passed on to the relevant group please contact the **Parish Council Clerk** at buckleshampc@gmail.com

The Next Bucklesham Bugle

Spring 2021 (adverts needed by 1st March '21)

This newsletter is the grapevine for the village. If you would like to advertise your event or group in future editions, inclusion will have to be on a **first come, first served basis**. Contact the **Parish Council Clerk** at buckleshampc@gmail.com

The Bucklesham Bugle ~ New Year 2021



We are now in our 6th year of publication and it is clear from all the positive feedback we receive that many of you really enjoy hearing village news in this way. The printing of the Bugle costs you, Council Tax payers, around £500 per year. Why not join the growing number of villagers who receive their copy online, just let us have your email address. This not only saves on printing costs but also saves paper.

We can see 'traffic' on the Village Website has increased considerably, this is great news. We can also see that villagers are taking it upon themselves to report Highways issues in the village such as broken signs, potholes, overgrown hedgerow etc. It is great to see villagers being so proactive and we encourage all of you who have any problems of this nature in the village to use the Reporting Tool on the website.

We wish to congratulate the Village Hall Committee as they have been used as an example by Community Action Suffolk in their regional newsletter, to show others how to open up a community hub successfully, ensure Covid Security, successfully apply for so many Grants and host new temporary bookings. This ensured that they not only survived but thrived during what was a very difficult year for many other village halls and community buildings. Members of the Committee have attended training seminars to pass on their knowledge and experience to other villages. This was all down to a great team effort from such a hard working Village Hall Committee, so very well done to them all for putting Bucklesham on the map.

We are currently investigating the allocation of some of our suitable lanes as 'Quiet Lanes' and have initiated the consultation process with Suffolk County Council. We will inform you of more details once we have them but this looks like it could be a very positive move for the village bringing many benefits to our quality of life.

The Parish Council would like to wish you all the best for this festive season. We know that many of you will be very glad to see the back of 2020 as there have been some very difficult times for many villagers this year. Others however, have had happy additions to their families (of the two and four legged kind) and memorable family moments for entirely different reasons. We hope that whatever 2021 brings, you are all safe and well and that there is a peaceful and prosperous year ahead for all of us.

Bucklesham Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2021

Next meeting via Zoom on 14th January 2021 at 7pm.

The Parish Council has committed to continue with meetings via

Zoom until May 2021 in line with Government Legislation.

Next three meetings will be 14th Jan, 11th March, 13th May.

For details contact the Parish Council Clerk at

buckleshampc@gmail.com

Bucklesham Village Website

For information on Bucklesham Parish Council, Clubs and Societies, Amenities, Reporting Problems, News and all things Bucklesham visit

bucklesham.suffolk.cloud

Please do have a look at this new village website. If you are a Tradesperson who lives in Bucklesham and you would like to advertise your business on our village website please contact the Parish Council at buckleshampc@gmail.com

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

We have a vacancy for someone to join us as a co-opted Parish Councillor. We are a very enthusiastic bunch and we have many projects on the go so ideally, we are looking for someone who would be willing to 'muck in' and be an active Councillor. No previous experience is needed, and full training is available. We meet once every two months (currently via video/audio conferencing) in the early evening and the Clerk is always on hand to explain things. We like to think we represent the whole community but we are currently a little short on younger Councillors, so if you are interested please contact the Parish Council Clerk at buckleshampc@gmail.com

A Defibrillator is situated outside the Village Hall

12 Levington Lane - In an Emergency Dial 999

The Emergency Service Operator will instruct you and give you the keycode to unlock the cabinet and release the defibrillator

Bucklesham & Foxhall Village Hall

Weddings~Parties~Dances~Exhibitions~Wakes~Meetings

Suitable for all Social and Professional Functions

The Village Hall can report that, despite losing nearly a whole year's regular bookings due to lockdown restrictions, we are *still* standing. An excellent team of a hard working committee and an extremely valuable member of staff have ensured that the hall is Covid Secure, adhering to all Government guidelines and open for permitted bookings according to Government regulations. We are extremely fortunate to have the support of the Bucklesham Parish and Community Councils, Patricia O'Brien our County Councillor, Bucklesham's District Councillors Richard Kerry and Melissa Allen, and Foxhall's District Councillors Edward Thompson and Chris Blundell. They all recognised the value of such a vital community hub and supported us with generous grants. We also secured funding from East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Community Foundation, the Suffolk Giving Fund and others which allowed us to complete more essential work in the hall.

We have taken the opportunity during lockdown to continue with our renovation of the hall's facilities. The Committee Room has been cleared out of all the old rubbish that had accumulated and has been completely refurbished. We have made excellent use of the space in the entrance hall and built a new storage cupboard for our cleaning equipment, allowing us to free up the old cupboard as storage for the new Toddler Group that we are delighted to welcome to the hall. The kitchen has had a facelift with all new tiling, worktops and splashback around the cooker. We also modernised the Gent's toilets by removing the outdated urinals and replacing them with much more modern and hygienic closed cubicles.

Although all village groups who use the hall chose to temporarily stop meeting in 2020, we have had many bookings from guest groups who lost their own regular venues. However, we are committed to honour the bookings of all village groups that wish to return whenever they feel ready. Contact us for more details on how we ensure we are Covid Secure or to see a copy of our special Covid Hire Agreement.

For bookings contact Heather Owen 01473 659754

heatherjowen@hotmail.com

Bucklesham Playing Field

The Playing Field at the end of Levington Lane is a much loved and well used asset of the village. There is an extensive children's play area, table tennis tables and large picnic benches. The field is visited daily by village dog walkers, joggers and those who just wish to enjoy the peace, quiet and tranquillity of such a beautiful field.

The Playing Field is held in Trust by the Parish Council on behalf of the village. We are responsible for all the costs on the field including grass cutting, insurance and Play Equipment maintenance, and all of this is paid for from the village precept through villagers' Council Tax contributions.

The Football

Last Summer, the Parish Council received numerous complaints from villagers with regards to the use of the field by external football teams. The complaints were regarding extreme amounts of litter, dangerous driving when entering and leaving the village, inconsiderate parking, and urinating at the back of people's property or close to the children's play area. Some cars and property were also damaged.

The Parish Council had to be mindful of the Conveyance of the field, a legal document drawn up in 1972, when discussing this matter at the Parish Council Meeting in September 2020. The Conveyance contains two key points relating to this. Firstly, the Second Schedule, Item 1 which states:

“Not to use the property hereby conveyed for any purpose whatsoever other than as a Recreation ground and playing field for the inhabitants of the village of Bucklesham”

And to Item 6:

“Not to do or permit or suffer to be done any act or thing upon or about the said property which shall or may grow to be an annoyance, nuisance, damage or disturbance to the vendors or the owners or occupiers for the time being of the said neighbouring land”

The Football Association and the Sunday League also expressed an opinion that in the long term the facilities were no longer suitable for organised football teams. There was an obvious issue with regards to ensuring the field is Covid Secure, and a Child Protection issue with adults urinating in an open field so close to a Children's Play Area.

Bearing all this in mind, the necessity of adhering to the Conveyance, the level of complaints and the feelings of the footballing authorities, the

Parish Council felt there was no alternative but to call an end to the use of external football teams hiring the field.

It was agreed to honour the Hire Agreements in place for the existing three teams for the rest of this season, but they have been informed that they will have to find an alternative venue for the 2021/22 season. The hire agreement for this year will finish on 31st May 2021.

The existing goals will now be available more for village families to use for recreational purposes.

The Future of the Field

In the coming year, the Parish Council will complete the felling of the overgrown poplar trees that surround the field and replace them with native trees, hedgerow and fencing. Orwell Park Estate have requested we remind villagers that there is no right of way from the Playing Field onto their private estate land and villagers are not permitted to walk around the Headland on Slip Ponds field. We also plan to leave a strip of grass around the perimeter of the field uncut to allow for wildflowers to flourish to help the bees and other pollinators. We will keep a path cut to allow walkers and joggers to enjoy the field in their usual way. As we are not insured to light bonfires on the field, we request that villagers do not leave anything to be burned as this can no longer take place.

The Friends Of the Playing Field

Following our request in the last edition of the Bugle, we have had several villagers who volunteered to be a FOP (Friend Of the Playing Field) and already their support has proved invaluable.

If you would like to join the FOPs, there is no commitment necessary, no meetings to attend, and no expectation of the amount of your involvement. We are just asking that those villagers who use the field regularly, or who live close by it, are another pair of eyes and hands to help us keep the field tidy, safe and secure and as a fantastic facility for all to use. As FOPs we can all help and support each other with the running of the field in order that the responsibility for it does not fall on just a few people. Many people benefit from the field, and the Parish Councillors will ensure it is protected for future generations.

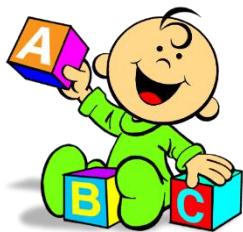
If you are willing to join us as a FOP and help keep our field beautiful, if you would like to join in with the tree and hedge planting, or if you have any comments or concerns regarding the Playing Field, please do email us at [**buckleshampc@gmail.com**](mailto:buckleshampc@gmail.com)

Bucklesham Bumps, Babies & Toddlers Group

We're really excited to tell you of our new group in Bucklesham. The Bumps, Babies and Toddler Group is open to all under 5s and their parents (or soon to be parents!), grandparents and carers of preschool children and babies who live in Bucklesham.

We are so lucky to have start-up funds from the Parish Council and the Community Council. The Community Council also successfully applied for a grant for us from the Suffolk Community Foundation. This has allowed us to buy toys and resources and to ensure we have the equipment to be Covid Secure. A huge 'Thank You' to the Village Hall for their support and encouragement and for clearing out and decorating a large storage cupboard for all our equipment.

We meet on Thursday mornings in the Village Hall from 9:30am until 11:30am. It will be a time to socialise and make new friends, share experiences or ask for support, and a chance for our children to meet the friends for life they will start school and grow up with. We adhere to strict rules to ensure we are Covid Secure and that we meet all Government guidelines, therefore **entry to the group cannot be permitted without prior booking**. Contact buckleshampc@gmail.com for your details to be passed on.



St Mary's Church News

Sadly, since the second Covid lockdown was imposed early in November, St Mary's Church has been closed to all Sunday services, though we were able to have a beautiful outdoor service on Remembrance Sunday. However, the Church is open for private prayer every Wednesday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm and several services are scheduled to be held over Christmas.

We hope and pray that with the anticipated early use of a Covid vaccination in 2021 our world will gradually return to some form of normality. Keep well and safe.

David Wardle, Churchwarden.

Bucklesham Community Council News

Your Parish Councillors have been busy again in 2020 with our Community Council hats on and are very proud to report that this year we have successfully secured funding from 13 different grants, all for village projects. We gladly supported the new Bucklesham Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Group with money from our own funds and by applying for a start-up grant from the Suffolk Giving Fund. This will allow the new group time to establish without the worry of initial low numbers bearing the cost of covering the hall hire and to purchase all the necessary toys and equipment.

As a team we were also successful in our bid for a grant from the Food and Drink Fund to support the Church Lunch. The reduced numbers necessary to ensure the Lunch complies with Covid Secure rules would have meant an increased cost per person. The Community Council grant has ensured this fantastic project can continue to provide a delicious meal among friends for all participants without them being penalised by increased costs once they are ready to restart.

We have also supported the Village Hall Committee in their endeavours to stay open and successfully provide a Covid Secure venue for the village by securing 10 separate grants totalling £16,400. This means the total raised this year for the village by the Community Council was £22,850.

We will continue to ensure that the constitution is fully adhered to and that money raised is spent solely on village projects. If you know of a village project that may need help in 2021 please let us know and we will endeavour to find a way to support it.

In the interests of transparency, and to allow for full scrutiny by villagers, Community Council business is discussed as an agenda item at Parish Council meetings. To learn more about Community Council please contact the Parish Council Clerk on buckleshampc@gmail.com.

The 2021 Census ~ March 2021

The Census is almost upon us. Bucklesham will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).