

New Buckenham Parish News



March 2026

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New Buckenham Parish News

March 2026

Closure of newbuckenham.net Website

After many years of serving our community, the newbuckenham.net website will be closing down shortly. Changes in how people access information, along with increasing maintenance and hosting demands, mean that keeping the site running is no longer practical.

Key updates, news, and event information are now shared through local social media groups, which provide much more dynamic content.

Historical village information continues to be shared via the New Buckenham Archive website: <http://newbuckenhamarchive.co.uk>

Mark Stevens

New Website For Parish News

The Parish News Committee would like to express their gratitude to Mark Stevens for hosting the online copies of the Parish News for many years now.

The Parish News has a new home on the web and the current and past issues can be found at: <http://www.newbucknews.co.uk>.

Parish News Committee

Sponsor the Parish News

We are very grateful to the Hoble family, who are the sponsors of this month's issue.

If you would be interested in sponsoring an issue of *Parish News* or advertising in the magazine, please contact Mary Dowson on 01953 860320 or email mdowson@btinternet.com.

Parish News Committee

Bucks Photoshow

8–10 May 2026

The Bucks Photoshow is back!

We'll be sharing full details soon, but in the meantime we'd love to hear from local photographers who might like to exhibit.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, all abilities are very welcome!

If you're interested or just want to find out more, email photoshow@newbuckenhams.net

Sonya Duncan

New Buckenham Arts

Volunteers Needed for the Photoshow

We're looking for volunteers to help make the Bucks Photoshow run smoothly, from serving cakes and refreshments to helping with set-up (Thursday 7th May) and clear-up (after 1pm on 10th May), and lending a hand during the event. If you've helped in the past or are new and want to join us we'd love to see you.

Show times below:

- Friday 8th May: from 7:30pm
- Saturday 9th May: 10am–5pm
- Sunday 10th May: 10am–1pm

You don't need to do it all, any time you can offer is hugely appreciated!

If you'd like to help (or want to know more), please get in touch at photoshow@newbuckenhams.net or contact Gerry on 01953 861027 / 07876 792056

Photoshow 2026 **8 - 10 May**

New Buckenham Village Hall

Local photographers

Refreshments

Admission free

Exhibitors very welcome - all enquiries to:

photoshow@newbuckenham.net

William Barber's Almshouse Charity

Reg. Charity No. 211189

The Trustees of the above Charity are looking for another person to join the small committee to help monitor and maintain the four almshouses in the village.

These houses were re-built in 1861, but were the legacy of William Barber who died in 1693 and are for villagers who find themselves in need. The Trustees act as befrienders to the residents and look after the properties.

If you are willing to attend four meetings a year in order to keep this historic charity active within the village and for further information please contact either one of us.

Mrs Pauline Dynes (Chair) psdynes@hotmail.com

Jen Shorter (Clerk) 07768 313701 / jenshorter@icloud.com

News from the Pews

Hopefully with spring around the corner we are all feeling a little cheerier and coming out of winter hibernation. At St Martin's, with the promise of warmer weather, and hopefully a slightly warmer church, we are planning events for the coming months.

Mothering Sunday: is on 15th March this year and we will be rightly celebrating mothers at Morning Prayer. We will be giving a small gift to all mothers who join us or to those remembering their mothers.

V&V Coffee Morning: their coffee morning is on 21st March, as advertised in last month's magazine, do please support them as they are supporting us!

Easter: we begin our services with Palm Sunday on 29th March: all seven parishes in the Benefice gather to celebrate at St Martin's. Good Friday is on 3rd April and we hope to have a meditative service that day (more details on that will be advertised). We will again be holding a Lily Remembrance on Saturday 4th April at 12 noon. Leaflets will be delivered soon with more details, if you would like to a lily to remember loved ones. On Easter Day there will be Holy Communion at 11am, with the promise of some Easter eggs to celebrate! Everyone is welcome at any of these services.

Lent: before we celebrate Easter, however, Revd Sarah is holding lent courses, starting on 26th February. They will be taking place in New Buckenham Village Hall every Thursday at 7:30pm for 5 weeks and will be exploring the Beatitudes. You don't have to be a regular church-goer to attend the sessions!

coffeemates!: We aim to support local charities and those who do not have the high profile of some of the larger, national charities. This year we have chosen to support: Leeway, Break, Caring Together, Cuppa Care and YANA, together with a morning raising funds for St Martin's fabric. Details will be announced every month until our last coffeemates! in October. Our 2026 season starts on 18th April, when we will be raising funds for Nourish. They launched under the feed charity in 2021 and provide hot evening meals for rough sleepers in Norwich six days a week; those in temporary accommodation and

those without cooking facilities are also eligible. We look forward to seeing you for our first coffeemates! of the year raising funds for this incredibly worthwhile charity. We sometimes need to be reminded how lucky we are...

Book Stall: the book stall is open every day during daylight hours There is a wide selection of novels and genres, to hopefully suit all tastes! Thank you for supporting it.

Food Bank: thank you for your generosity in leaving donations either in the church or at King's Stores.

Contact details: Revd. Sarah Walsh is always happy to visit or chat. You can contact her on 01953 571549 or 07809 430967.

For any other queries do contact me:

Louise Casson (Churchwarden)

01953 860191

| St Martin's Services: March 2026 | | | |
|--|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sun 1st | 10am | Group Service Old Buckenham | 2nd Sunday of Lent |
| Sun 8th | 4:30pm | Choral Evensong | 3rd Sunday of Lent |
| Sun 15th | 11am | Morning Prayer | Mothering Sunday |
| Sun 22nd | 11am | Holy Communion | 5th Sunday of Lent |
| Sun 29th | 10am | Palm Sunday Service New Buckenham | Palm Sunday |
| <p>For more information about services, contact: Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549)</p> | | | |

NEW BUCKENHAM ART EXHIBITION 2026



EASTER WEEKEND

**Opening night: Friday 3rd April, 7:30pm
£5 including wine and nibbles**

**General Admission:
Saturday 4th to Monday 6 th April
11am—4:30pm**

**NEW BUCKENHAM VILLAGE HALL,
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Village & Vestry

FORTH COMING EVENTS



Coffee Morning



Saturday 21st March (10.30am)

Fresh coffee/tea and cake £3.50

★ The Cantorelli Choir

from West Yorkshire performing for us on

Saturday 18th April 7.30pm

More information to follow



St. Martin's Church New Buckenham

We look forward to welcoming you!



New Buckenham Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7:30pm on Tuesday 10th March at the Village Hall. All parishioners are very welcome – we look forward to seeing you.

Parish Council Vacancy

The Parish Council will shortly have a vacancy for a new Councillor and are therefore looking for an interested person to join the Parish Council.

The Parish Council holds an important position in the democratic process, it is the first tier of local government in England, representing local community interests and managing local amenities. The PC has statutory and advisory roles in planning, and raises funds through a precept included in your Council Tax.

Proposed changes to Local Government is likely to mean that Breckland Council will be abolished and replaced with a larger Unitary Authority covering all or parts of Norfolk. As a consequence the voice of Parish Councils will take on a greater importance as the only route for expressing local opinion and needs. The ongoing role and voice of Parish Councils will be essential in such matters as planning, finance, and local traffic and highway matters.

New Buckenham Parish Council will benefit greatly from new and enthusiastic Councillors willing to represent the village in a rapidly changing and challenging world.

The Parish Council has many responsibilities in the village including:

- Finance and the Council Tax precept
- Commenting on planning matters
- Liaison with Norfolk CC on highway and traffic matters
- Owning and managing the cricket field, play area and cemetery
- Managing the churchyard
- Streetlighting
- Allotments

I will be very happy to meet and discuss the work of the Council with any persons interested in taking on the role of councillor. The work is not onerous – we meet once a monthly (except for August). Each Councillor takes on responsibility for one or two areas of the Councils work, with vital support from our Clerk.

Churchyard and Cemetery

You may have noticed new signage on the gates into the churchyard asking for dogs to be kept on a lead, and that dogs do not foul the churchyard. The churchyard is a place of peace, particularly for villagers visiting the ashes interment memorials, and it is not appropriate for the churchyard to be used as a place for dogs to be exercised, and to foul the area. This can be very upsetting for people visiting memorials. The Parish Council therefore asks that this request is respected, there are plenty of suitable green spaces around the village for dog exercising. Similarly for the cemetery we ask that dogs are kept on leads and no dog fouling, we will shortly be putting up signage at the cemetery to remind dog owners.

Andrew Bingham

Chairperson – New Buckenham Parish Council

cllr.andrew.bingham@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Summary of draft Minutes February 2026

Present: Andrew Bingham (AB), Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Steve Highton (SH), Mary Dowson (MD), Mary Manning (MM), Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk and no members of the public.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting approved.

2. Matters arising

- a) The village map on the noticeboard is to be reprinted - order approved.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. District/County Councillor Report

Steve Askew had circulated his report, this can be found on the PC website.

5. Parish Cllr Reports

a) SH reported that the village pump has been cracked. It has been removed for repair.

b) PM spoke regarding the five-year housing report that lends support to the Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plan due for review 2026/7.

c) AB reported he had received a resignation notification from MM from April 1st 2026. All present expressed their thanks to Mary for her service to NBPC. AT to process resignation via Breckland electoral services.

6. Financial Matters

a) January Bank Reconciliation approved.

b) Payments for February 2026 approved.

c) The Reserves Policy was approved.

7. Planning

No new applications.

8. Amenities

a) Grounds Maintenance - Broadland Tree Services have agreed the contract for three years.

b) Closed Churchyard - despite 'Dogs on Lead' and 'No Fouling' signs, the problem continues. A further quote for gate repairs to be obtained.

c) Cemetery - 'Dogs on Lead' sign to be displayed.

d) Allotments - £900 water bill paid, but still under investigation. Anglian Water to visit.

e) Play Area - annual inspection the end of February.

f) Defibrillator - nothing to report.

g) Street Lights - BTS quote accepted for clearing crown growth around some lights.

h) Community Car Scheme - DBS application process has been passed to the CCS coordinator. NBPC to check that all drivers have a current DBS check.

9. Correspondence

A Grazing Rights owner has contacted NBPC agreeing that their sale should be more transparent and will therefore be advertising their Rights for sale in *Parish News*.

Council has suggested an article to be written in *Parish News* by the Grazing Rights Steering Committee to explain how the Rights operate. Further information can be obtained from AB.

Mary Dowson for New Buckenham Parish Council

Community Car Scheme

The Community Car Scheme provides affordable transport to enable people who live in New Buckenham to attend medical appointments.

If you need transport for an appointment, please contact me on 01953 860136 or by email alicecattermole@hotmail.com giving us as much notice as possible to find you a driver. You will pay the volunteer driver 50% of the mileage at 45p per mile, with the rest of the cost being met by the Parish Council and Breckland Council.

We would love to recruit one or two new drivers as we are quite busy. You need to have access to a vehicle and be willing to transport others to medical appointments. There are no fixed commitments, we only ask you to drive when convenient for you and on journeys that you feel comfortable with. Most of our trips are to Attleborough. Your mileage will be paid at 45p per mile.

If you think you could help, please get in touch via email at alicecattermole@hotmail.com or telephone 01953 860136 for further information.

Alice Cattermole

Community Car Scheme Coordinator

Hanging Baskets

As summer and the Village Show (18th July) draw nearer, it is time to start thinking about your hanging baskets. If you have a greenhouse, you can start now, but if not it would be best to wait until late April/early May and find somewhere relatively frost free to protect them.

There are many types and sizes of baskets. The traditional metal ones that are lined with coir, moss (or plastic at a push) are probably the best known, but not necessarily the ones that give the best results. It is hard to plant the bottom of the basket as this can lead to water being lost since holes have to be made in whatever lining you are using. A plastic saucer placed in the bottom helps with watering.

Plastic baskets with pop-out sections for planting through give a much more satisfying overall appearance and tend to fill out quicker. Although the use of plastic is frowned upon these days, they are very durable and can be cleaned out and used for many seasons.

When preparing your compost, you can mix in water-retaining gels or crystals and slow-release fertiliser pellets. Your baskets should be checked every day to see if they need watering, to deadhead and look out for pests and diseases. You may prefer to use a liquid feed weekly once they are more established (tomato feed is a good option) rather than the pellets.

You can tell if a basket needs water by feeling the weight of it. A dry basket will feel lighter than it did when you planted it and if it is very light it may need to be submerged in a bucket to let the compost soak up water again.

The plants you use also make a difference. You should consider similar plants to when potting up a container or tub. You should consider the principle of 'Thrillers, spillers and fillers'. Some plants should be dramatic and eye catching (thrillers) being the main focal point, others should be trailing over the sides (spillers) and others to fill-in spaces (fillers). If you aim to cover the whole surface, this can help with water retention, but don't plant so many that they don't have room to fill out and be healthy. This can also make feeding and watering very difficult.

Stick to these principles and you should have lovely baskets, just right

for entering the 'Up the Wall' competition. There is also now the 'Fill your Boots' competition, both of these are designed to get the village looking lovely for the summer, so even if you don't want to enter (which we hope you will) please do plant-up baskets, tubs and wellies to decorate the front of your house.

The Gardening Group are considering putting on a very informal workshop, where you would have the opportunity to plant-up a basket and take it away. There would be a charge for this (we estimate £20–25) but it would depend on how many would be interested in taking part. Please let me know by 15th April if you are interested. Thank you.

Lynn Carter for the Gardening Group

Lynncarter222@gmail.com / 01953 571211

Good Companions

Did you know that you lose your sense of smell when you are asleep? This was one of the many facts fifteen members were told during an enlightening talk by Lucy from the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. Tea was served by the committee.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 19th March, where we will go back to our childhood with an old-fashioned Easter bonnet parade and Easter-themed bingo.

Two new members came and joined us at our last meeting. New members will be made very welcome. For more information please contact me on 01953 860467 or Diana Cole on 01953 860636.

Christine Wilby

London Marathon 2026

Chloe Womack will be running in this year's London Marathon in support of the mental-health charity Mind. You can sponsor her via Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/chloe-womack-1>.

New Buckenham Parish Council

Chair: Andrew Bingham (01953 861150 /
cllr.andrew.bingham@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Vice-Chair: Paul Martin (01953 861117 /
cllr.paul.martin@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillors: Don Crossman (01953 861246)

Mary Dowson (01953 860320)

Steve Highton (01953 860000)

Karen Hobley (01953 860529)

Mary Manning (01953 861242)

Clerk: Angela Thornton (01953 887830 /
parish.clerk@newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Parish Council meets at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall. Further information can be found on our notice board on the Village Green or www.newbuckenhampc.info.

200 Club Lucky Winners

Thank you for your continued support of the Village Hall. Here are the lucky winners for the latest draw.

£20

Gerry Walsh, Rachel D'Arachy, Brian Grindley

£10

Mary Manning, Gordon Chase, Paul Dowling,
Andrea Halfacree, Jill and Ian Dawson, Gail Paterson,
Oliver Pearson, Alice Shaw

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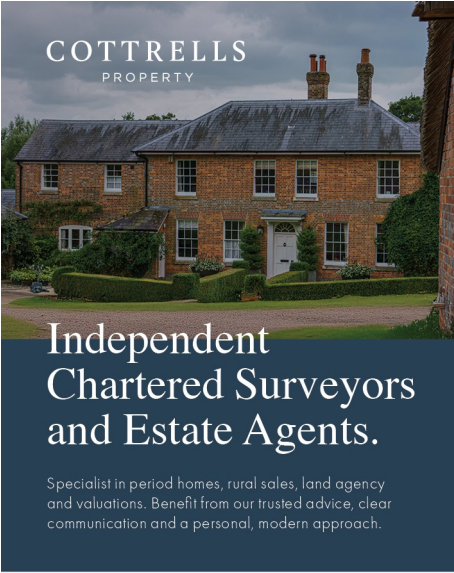
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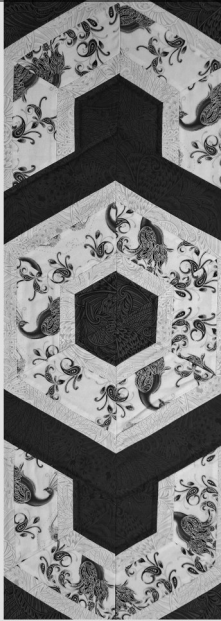
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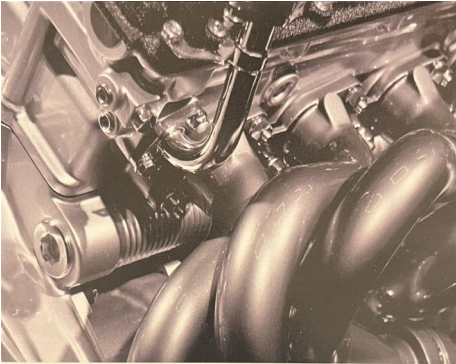
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P J Anderson
ND, ARB



Sycamore House, 2 Tanning Lane, New Buckenham

t: 01953 860370

m: 07500 888310

www.broadlandtreeservices.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary

March 2026

| | |
|------------|--|
| Tues 10th | Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm |
| Thurs 19th | Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm |
| Sat 21st | V&V Coffee Morning, St Martin's, 10:30am |
| Sun 29th | Palm Sunday Service, St Martin's, 10am |

April 2026

| | |
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| Fri 3rd | Art Exhibition Opening Night, Village Hall, 7:30pm |
| Sat 4th | Art Exhibition, Village Hall, 11am until 4:30pm |
| Sun 5th | Art Exhibition, Village Hall, 11am until 4:30pm |
| Mon 6th | Art Exhibition, Village Hall, 11am until 4:30pm |

The Village Hall Bookings Administrator is Stevie Hobley
07469 715517 ~ bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk

Contributions for the April 2026 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Sunday 22nd March to Richard Hoggett, 9 Church Street (860136), Katie Wyatt-Hupton, Orchard Cottage, Marsh Lane (308427) or by email to editor@newbucknews.co.uk.

TO ADVERTISE: please contact Mary Dowson on 01953 860320 or mdowson@btinternet.com