

New Buckenham Parish News



September 2026

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New Buckenham Parish News

September 2026

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 as much notice as possible to find you a driver.

You will pay the volunteer driver 50% of the mileage at 55p per mile. For example, a trip to Attleborough will cost you £2.75, or a trip to Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital is £8.80. The remainder of the mileage cost is met by the Parish Council and Breckland Council.

Alice Cattermole

A Big Thank You!

I would like to send a sincere thank you to everyone for their get well cards, offers of help, phone calls and visits following my accident in July. I would like to report I am slowly on the mend.

Clive Rush

Sponsor the Parish News

This month's issue of Parish News is sponsored by the New Buckenham Gardening Group. 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

No More Bonfires

At the August Parish Council meeting it was brought to our attention that some people continue to have bonfires and there has already been an incident with a bonfire getting out of control.

Given the current dry conditions and drought, which are projected to continue for at least two weeks, we are asking that residents do not light any bonfires or use disposable barbecues in any public spaces in New Buckenham.

A slight increase in the breeze or wind can quickly turn a small seemingly harmless fire into something catastrophic, as we have sadly seen in Kenninghall.

PLEASE no more bonfires in New Buckenham. Let's all keep our village safe.

Paul Martin

Chair New Buckenham Parish Council

Please note that there will be no Parish Council meeting in September. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October.

Summary of draft Minutes August 2026

Present: Paul Martin (PM), Karen Hobley (KH), Mary Dowson (MD), Don Crossman (DC), Mark Quinton (MQ), Andrew Bingham (AB), Angela Thornton (AT) Clerk, Steve Askew (SA) District Cllr and 14 members of the public.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the July meeting approved.

2. Matters arising

Dealt with under relevant agenda items.

3. Public Participation

a) Proposed additional car park by Charles Stimpson. To provide a car park and housing on land owned by him through a Community Land Trust. He suggested some funding could be

provided by the PC.

Opinions were then voiced by parishioners:

- Existing parking facilities within the village.
- Most problematical areas around Market Place and pub.
- Effect of additional traffic on Church Street and nearby junctions.
- Previous planning and highways concerns relating to development of proposed site.
- Proposed relationship between the car park and additional housing.
- How the car park could protected from future development or disposal.
- How the PC could contribute to a Community Land Trust.
- Concern that the proposed car park would not alleviate the problem given the availability of existing car parks.

It was clarified that funding could not come from the Community Project Fund as this is ring-fenced for community capital projects.

The Chair proposed that the PC first establish whether the parking problem was significant enough to justify an additional car park. PC unanimously agreed that the current car parking problem would not be resolved by providing an additional car park at the proposed location.

b) Concern was raised about trees along Church Street becoming too large and creating a safety and visibility issue.

4. District Councillor Report

Breckland Local Plan consultation has been extended to 23rd September. SA encouraged residents to submit comment on the BDC website.

He agreed to follow up an outstanding planning matter as we have received no response.

5. Parish Cllr Reports

Under later agenda items.

6. Financial Matters

a) July Bank Reconciliation approved.

b) Payments for August and September 2026 agreed.

c) Community Project Group - no new applications. KH stated a previous application had not provided additional information requested.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Group meeting 24th August, report expected October meeting.

8. Planning

Crawford Market Place - demolition of existing garage, replacement with a three bay two-storey cart lodge.

Chair withdrew from the meeting, AB took the chair.

Cllrs discussed:

- The scale and height of the building.
- Potential impact on neighbouring properties and character of the surrounding area.
- Absence of street scene drawing.
- Proposed materials.
- Effect on existing parking arrangements.

PC agreed to submit a holding objection, requesting further information.

9. Amenities

a) Grounds Maintenance - thanks to BTS for removing long grass.

b) Closed Churchyard - a working party will be organised following confirmation of cutting dates.

c) Cemetery - nothing to report.

d) Allotments - PC agreed that bonfires will be banned with immediate effect.

- e) Play Area - thanks to BTS for recent cleaning and maintenance work.
- f) Defibrillator - batteries may need replacing before the next meeting.
- g) Street Lights - nothing to report.
- h) Community Car Scheme - not discussed at this meeting.
- i) Public Footpaths - concern regarding an electric fence obstructing a footpath, this has been reported to Highways. Concerns about the access to the Common while cattle are grazing has been raised with the suggestion that additional electric fencing would make the area safer for walkers. After discussion it was decided not to request additional fencing.

10. SAM3

Following concern with traffic speeding through the village, SAM3 speed awareness equipment has been obtained through the Parish Partnership scheme. This will collect information about vehicle speeds, dates and times. The data will be available to the PC and could be used to provide evidence when seeking further speed management measures.

11. Correspondence

BDC Community Emergency Plan letter - KH will review our current plan, to be discussed at the next meeting.

PC considered correspondence from a mobile refill market wishing to visit the village. AB to speak to King's Stores to determine potential impact on it.

Mary Dowson for the Parish Council

How Cool is Kuhl?

Another year has gone by and another review of the bat life in and around St Martin’s church has been undertaken. We already know there are 18 bat species in the Great Britain and 12 of them at least are here in New Buckenham including four of the most endangered. How many of them choose to go to church is another issue.

Imagine our surprise when we monitored the first ever recording of a Kuhl’s pipistrelle bat – or was it? And a significant increase of some of the rarest bats in the country. Could it be a maternity roost?

Bat recordings inside such a large echoey building can be complex to annotate reliably. Since we started recording inside the church in 2024 we have been able to gather that at least half a dozen species are whizzing up and down the aisles. So what’s been going on this year? Below are some of the more startling results, but if you want to see the details head for the church where a file will reveal all.

	2026	2025
Barbastelle (vulnerable)	132	78
Serotine (vulnerable)	165	84
Nathusius’ pipistrelle (Near threatened)	2	0
Leisler’s bat (Near threatened)	19	0
Brown long-eared bat	24	141
Common pipistrelle	7,471	7,682
Daubenton’s bat	118	218
Kuhl’s pipistrelle	2	0
Natterer’s bat	9	270
Soprano pipistrelle	437	141

The rarity of species is annotated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/summary-statistics>.

The recordings done outside the church are, in many ways even more extraordinary in terms of numbers. It would appear that the Piccadilly Circus of bat life in New Buckenham is on the south side of the church. The dry weather, lack of insects, shortage of water, light sources, dangerous enemies are all significant. But maybe there's another reason. Dr Stuart Newson, senior ecologist with the British Trust for Ornithology is our guide, since he is the one who developed the technology, has won many awards and treks the world advising and lecturing. He studied our data.

Serotines are categorised as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List. They face a high risk of extinction in the wild due to population decline and loss of habitat. Yet, inside St Martin's church, their numbers have apparently risen. In 2026, 165 WAV recordings, compared with only 84 recordings in 2025. In 2024 only 45.

But the numbers have altered outside the church, too. In 2026, on the south side of the churchyard, there were 151 WAVS of Serotines. In 2025, there were only 84 WAVS.

The other severely endangered bat which we know is in New Buckenham on the Common and up Cuffer Lane, is the Barbastelle (Vulnerable). Again, the church recordings show significant increases both outside and inside over 2026 and 2025. And, as with the Serotines, Barbastelles seem to want to be indoors under the arches. Or do they? There's a desperate need for more facts and figures, so New Buckenham's effort is vital.

Batman Superior as Dr Newson is known in New Buckenham gave this summation:

Inside the church - confirmed: Four species - Brown long-eared bat, Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle and Serotine. The call activity is consistent with all four species using the church, probably as a maternity roost.

The Serotine recordings are the most significant finding. The species is localised within the county, and the recordings include social calls of a type that would only be produced at a roost (and rarely seen), this confirms the importance of the church for the species.

Inside the church - probable: A small number of weak calls are most consistent with Natterer's bat. I'd regard this as probable rather than confirmed.

Inside the church - no evidence: No calls attributable to Leisler's bat, Daubenton's bat or Nathusius' pipistrelle. I'm confident these can be excluded from the results. There is no evidence that Noctule or Barbastelle are using the inside of the church.

Outside the church: A broader suite of species, additionally including Noctule, Barbastelle and a good number of Natterer's bat sequences. And just when you thought it couldn't get more complicated...

It's clear the echolocations inside the church can be questionable, so to have recorded two Kuhl's pipistrelle bats lurking over the book-reading corner, seems bizarre. Nowhere before have we come across this species. Furthermore, on readings taken outside the church we also recorded Kuhl's pipistrelles. This time there were, apparently, six of them, although all were of low confidence. Cool? Or not Kuhl?

Kuhl's pipistrelle has no accepted records for Norfolk.

Kuhl's pipistrelle was first described in 1817, under the name *Vespertilio kuhlii*, in a work by Heinrich Kuhl, a German naturalist and zoologist, entitled *Die deutschen Fledermäuse* ('The bats of Germany'). Who knew that an opera was named after a BAT?

Kuhl's pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus kuhlii*) is a species vesper bat from the Latin referring to 'evening'. It occurs across the world - only in Antarctica is it absent.

Is there a Kuhl bat or two around our village? Has the changing climate brought it to us?

Batman Superior's judgement: The Kuhl's (social call) identifications from outside the church are the more interesting case. Acoustically they are closest to Kuhl's, but they are not right for it, they are too low in frequency. My interpretation is that these are Serotines producing atypical echolocation calls with a combined social function, sitting roughly 5 kHz above the frequency expected for Serotine.

Who knew? Time for some more recording, I guess!

Janet Trewin

Kings Stores

To all my loyal customers,

I feel it only right to write to you all and thank you for the support you have given me during my time providing you with my services at Kings Stores. After 16 years of running Kings Stores and on the back of running the butchers for 18 years, I have decided to shut the doors and enjoy life for myself.

As my regulars will remember, Kings Stores started in 2010 in what is now the Castle Cafe. On closing the butchers in 2017, I felt it only right to utilise the space we had and we moved the shop into its current location. Covid came and this set a new way of providing to my regulars, new faces and any passing traffic.

With the cost of living, electricity prices increasing, increased cost for employing staff, large increases in minimum orders from suppliers and a big change in people's spending, Kings Stores is no longer the shop for me and I have made the decision to close.

My last day of trading will 10th October 2026.

I would like to thank everyone who has stuck with me through all of my trading years and I will see you around the village enjoying some of my own free time!

Sue Cattermole

Good Companions

Fifteen members attended the meeting on Thursday 20th August, where they enjoyed a high tea served by committee members. The entertainment was Fruit Bingo, as the speaker from Breckland District Council was unable to attend due to staff shortages.

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 17th September, when we will have a craft lesson run by Lynn. New members will be made very welcome. For more information, please contact me on 01953 860467 or Diana Cole on 01953 860636.

Christine Wilby

New Buckenham Village Hall

If you are thinking of things you might like to do and people you might like to meet as we settle into the Autumn months have a look at this weekly guide to 'What's on at the Village Hall'.

There is something happening every day at the Hall, from fitness to flower arranging. We are proud to host so many different groups at the Hall, getting involved keeps our village the active, friendly, caring community we all choose to live in.

The Hall is available to book for private parties, events and gatherings. For more details visit us at www.newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk/ or email bookings@newbuckenhamvillagehall.co.uk.

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Contact Arron: 07711 910220

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Contact Natalie: 07544 871717 or natalie@littlecityuk.com

Fit Steps: Dance and Fitness

Tuesday Mornings

Contact Marie: 07917 733655 (text please)

Parish Council

Second Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm

<https://www.newbuckenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

New Buckenham Players & Stage Crew

Tuesday evenings

Contact: info.newbuckenhamplayers@gmail.com

Oakley Dance school

Wednesday early evenings

Contact: 01953 456577 / www.oakleydancing.co.uk

Intermediate Badminton

Wednesday evenings

Contact Ann: 01953 860164

Winter Warmer Games Café

Wednesday afternoons Oct to March, 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Drop in sessions - everyone welcome!

Retreat Textiles

First Thursday of the month, 10am to 2:30pm

Contact Michele: mimisnapdragons@gmail.com

Flower and Garden Group

Second Thursday of the month, afternoon session

Contact: brecklandclub1982@gmail.com

Good Companions

Third Thursday of the month, afternoon session

Contact Christine: 01953 860467

Impatiens: Quilting and Patchwork

Fourth Thursday of the month, 10am to 3pm

Contact Christine: 07873 373900

New Buckenham Silver Band

Thursday evenings, all levels welcome

Contact Wendy: 07919 336171 / Ian 07835300504

Historical War gamers

Friday evenings

Contact Chris: 01953 714865

Junior football

Weekday evening training / Saturday & Sunday morning matches

Contact Tom: 01953 861429

News from the Pews

coffeemates!: Thank you to everyone who came last month and helped to raise £158 towards the cost of utilities, which are not inconsiderable as we all testify for our own homes.

Our next coffee morning is on 12th September, when we'll be raising funds for the Cuppa Care Bus. The Cuppa Care Bus visits towns and villages across Norfolk regularly: so, whether you just want to get out of the house, meet new people, chat about something that's worrying you or get information and advice, board the Cuppa Care bus! The project's goal is to provide a county-wide support service, aimed at preventing and reducing loneliness and social isolation. It is run by Hear for Norfolk, the working name for the Norfolk Deaf Association charity. The Association was founded in 1898 and has a long and noble history of supporting people of all ages suffering from hearing loss and related conditions. You can find details of where they'll be at www.hearfornorfolk.org.uk/cuppacare/#timetable. So, we look forward to seeing you to help raise funds for this unique service!

Bat Survey 2026: You will have read Janet Trewin's fascinating report on her findings in *Parish News*. Janet has now collated the information and the Bat Folder will be updated soon with the latest findings. Who knew that New Buckenham was home to such exotic, endangered species?!

Churchyard: the Parish Council are responsible for the churchyard, so thank you very much to a team from the Churchyard Conservation Group who recently raked up and cleared the long, cut grass on the north side of the churchyard.

Book Stall: Thank you to the avid readers of New Buckenham for continuing to browse the shelves! New titles seem to appear on a daily basis and there's undoubtedly something for everyone.

Food Bank: Thank you, too, for donations to the food bank box, both in the church and Kings 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 queries contact me: Louise Casson (Churchwarden) on 01953 860191.

St Martin's Services: September 2026

Sun 6th	10am	Group Service at All Saints', Wilby	14th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 13th	4:30pm	Evensong	15th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 20th	11am	Holy Communion	16th Sunday after Trinity
Sun 27th	11am	Morning Prayer	17th Sunday after Trinity

For more information about services, contact:

Priest in Charge: Revd Sarah Walsh (01953 571549) or go to www.achurchnearyou.com for services throughout the Benefice.

New Buckenham Parish Council

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

Councillors: Andrew Bingham (01953 861150)

Don Crossman (01953 861246)

Mary Dowson (01953 860320)

Steve Highton (01953 860000)

Karen Hobley (01953 860529)

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.

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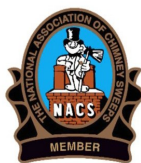


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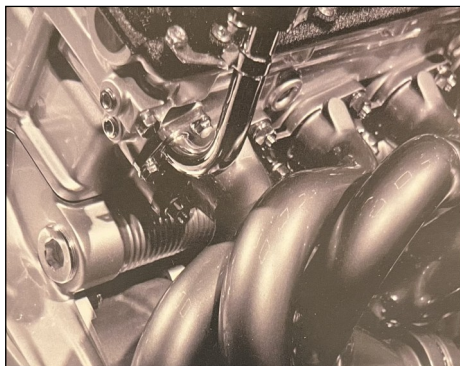
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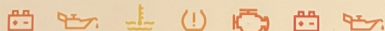
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Dates For Your Diary

September 2026	
Sat 12th	coffeemates!, St Martin's Church, 10:30am
Thurs 17th	Good Companions, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Save the Date	
Tues 13th October	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm

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

Contributions for the October 2026 issue of *New Buckenham Parish News* should be submitted by 6pm on Sunday 20th September 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