

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February Issue No. 535

Hi everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter.

Happy New Year to all our readers. The evenings are slowly drawing out, the birds are more active, and Spring is just around the corner.

Barry Carter has sent us this shot of a pair of Andrew and Hannah's sheep in the paddock by the village hall. Caption suggestions welcomed. Perhaps, "Is this the Quewe for the Spud and Skittles?" or "Can't wait to try some of Penny's Rocky Road Cake at the Pop-Up." or "Did someone call the Mountain Rescewe Team?"

If you have any items, including local adverts, which you would like included in future newsletters, send these to cpb.newsletter@gmail.com, but could you please submit them by 26th of the month latest so that we have enough time to organise the Newsletter and send it out by the end of the month. If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter, then please let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list.

Dates for the Diary

Every Monday	Zumba dancing 9.30am, Village Hall
Every Wednesday	Pilates 9.30am-10.30am, Village Hall
Sun. 1st Feb.	Said Communion 9.00am, St. Peter's Church
Mon. 2nd Feb.	Table Tennis 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Village Hall
Thurs. 5th Feb.	Fish & Chip Van, 5.00-7.30pm, Village Hall Car Park
Mon. 9th Feb.	Bushton Bookworms
Tues. 10th Feb.	Games Afternoon 2.30pm-4.30pm, Village Hall
Thurs. 12th Feb.	Calligraphy Group 10.00am-12 noon, Village Hall
Sun. 15th Feb.	Said Communion Service 9.00am, St. Peter's Church
Tues. 24th Feb.	Games Afternoon 2.30pm-4.30pm, Village Hall
Thurs. 26th Feb.	Calligraphy Group 10.00am-12noon, Village Hall
Fri. 27th Feb.	Spud & Skittles 6.30m, Village Hall
Sat. 28th Feb.	Coffee Morning, Thickthorn House, 44 Preston

Village Hall News

For the first time ever, we were told that the hall was too warm!! Yes, the new heating system was installed just before Christmas. The new radiators are digitally controlled by Wi-Fi and are set at the weekend for lettings booked the following week - I think we now have the temperature about right for the various activities. The hall floor was thoroughly cleaned and re-oiled during the week after Christmas when there were no lettings - it is looking good with the aroma of Osmo oil now gone. All that is now left to do is to get the hall redecorated - watch this space for help required!

Outside the hall by the main door there is now a smart new noticeboard (see below) shared with the Parish Council - no longer will you need to risk standing at the roadside to read notices! We are very grateful to the Bradenstoke Solar Park Community Benefit Fund for covering the cost of its purchase and to Ian Fraser for mounting it on the brick wall.



Since publication of the last newsletter, the Village Hall Management Committee AGM has taken place at which Simon Hughes became an elected member - welcome Si. Sadly, due to other commitments both Lisa and Danielle have 'retired' - we thank them both for their contributions to the work of the committee. They will both be missed although we hope they will still be able to come along to some of the events.

Following the success and fun of the last **'Spud and Skittles'** evening we are holding a similar one **on Friday 27th February** - Not just Skittles but the opportunity to play other table-top games such as Rummikub, Cribbage, various card games, Mah Jong or whatever you might like to bring along for others to try or just sit and chat. The baked potatoes should be ready for 7pm and you will have a choice of several fillings - please bring your own drinks and glasses. We do need to know how much food to prepare so please BOOK. Details on the poster in the Newsletter.

Another date for your diary: **Saturday 14th March – Pop-Up Coffee Shop 10 to 12noon**.

The date for the Quiz has been postponed until after Easter.

Thank you to all those who came to sing Carols in the Car Park and to enjoy the refreshments and getting warm inside the meeting room afterwards. And once again thanks to Penny and team for the Pop-Up Coffee shop in January - well attended with folk catching up after the Christmas break.

Lastly - **the Fish and Chip van will be in the village hall car park from 5 -7:30pm on Thursday 5th February.**

Village Hall News cont'd…



Village Hall 101 Club

Collecting the £15 annual fee has started and we plan to make the draw for the first three months of the year at the March Committee meeting.

There are several ways to contribute:

- by setting up an annual standing order or by bank transfer – in either case please contact myself or one of the collectors for the bank details
- by giving cash or a cheque to one of our volunteer collectors. They are:

Bushton: Barbara Davis, Kiftsgate, Bushton
Clyffe Pypard: Ian Fraser, 18 Clyffe Pypard
Preston: Mike Morison, Preston House
Thickthorn: Sally Fox, Thickthorn House

Placing your money in an envelope labelled with your name and delivering it to the most appropriate person would be helpful but not essential – they are all very happy to collect from you.
Thank you all for your support – it really is appreciated.
Barbara Davis 07962 236678 rjbjdavis@btinternet.com

Regular Bookings

Monday: 9:30 Zumba 19:30 1st Monday evening Table Tennis
Tuesday: 2:30pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday Games (not summer term)
Tuesday: 19:00 to 21:00 Vastern Lodge every 2 weeks
Wednesday: 9:30 Yoga/Pilates, 11:00 to 12noon Private Dance Practice every 2 weeks
Thursday 10:00 2nd and 4th Calligraphy (not summer term) 3rd Evening 19:15 WI

Note: Yoga Restarted 7th January

MORE BOOKINGS WOULD BE WELCOME

If you want to host a large party, meeting or event, we can provide the space, facilities and lots of **FREE parking at very AFFORDABLE rates.**

Come and see what we have to offer

Just give Barbara a call on 07962 0236678 or email villagehallcpb@gmail.com

FISH & CHIP VAN AT BUSHTON VILLAGE HALL



Thomas Spackman Educational Trust Grant

Are you, or do you know, a young person living in the Clyffe Pypard or Broad Town area who would benefit from a grant from The Thomas Spackman Educational Trust?

The Charity's main focus is education or work-related training and apprenticeships, but the Charity may also be able to help a promising individual develop a particular talent; perhaps help fund tuition in a musical instrument or develop a sporting skill.

Applying is very easy. If you wish to find out more about the application process, please contact Rosemary Greenway or email: spackmantrust@gmail.com.

All formal applications need to be in by 31st March for the spring round and 30th September for the autumn round of awards.

Calligraphy Group



The Calligraphy Group will be meeting twice this month. We meet on alternate Thursday mornings in the Village Hall.

We are a small friendly group and would be very pleased to welcome anyone else who is interested in learning or developing a new skill. Our activities are based around lettering, but we take it lightly and try to include other crafts as well. You don't need any special equipment to get started, I always have pens and ink. You can join in at any time.

If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information or to come for a "taster" session, please get in touch with Jan (01249 890726 / jan_hargrave@yahoo.co.uk

Bushton Bookworms



Bushton Bookworms have been taking a rest from meeting and instead munching on all our Christmas presents!

We will begin 2026 with a meeting on Monday 9th February to talk about a story of the Second World War, set in France, written by Kristin Hannah. I believe her books have become well known for their hard-hitting detail...

If you have read this or any other by her, please join us for a discussion about it.
Contact Sally Fox, sally_fox@btinternet.com or ring 07568 311823

SPUD & SKITTLES

Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall

FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY
Doors open 6:30pm
Food ready for 7.00pm

Baked potatoes with a selection of fillings and side salads.
BYO drinks and glasses.
Tea/Coffee provided

Skittles Alley will be set up.
Bring any board/card games that you might like to play or just enjoy having a chat

Please book in advance
rjbjdavis@btinternet.com
0796 223 6678
Please pay your £5 on the day
Card reader available

Women's Institute

Bushton & Clyffe Pypard W.I. celebrated its 100th birthday in December 2025. With the aid of a most generous donation and an artist ex-member we were able to create a unique mug for our members







The design starts in 1925, reflects our very rural location and includes as many activities as such a small space will permit, ending in 2025. Each member was given one at a celebration dinner in December, a grand leisurely event, in house catering, beautifully decorated tables, a happy buzz of conversation and altogether a great way to remember one hundred years.

The W.I. has always been closely linked with the two villages, especially with the building of the village hall in the 1980s, so to celebrate we also put on an exhibition of village life from the 1920s, working our way through the war years to the end of the century and on into the twenty first century. It was a glorious mixture of memorabilia, newspaper cuttings, W.I. archives and photographs. The refreshments were cakes typical of what was new in each of the decades. We then just opened the doors and let the public in to browse at their leisure.

The December meeting was an in-house celebration dinner, beautifully cooked by two members, leisurely, festive, awash with friendship and chatter, even included two excellent young men who came and did the washing up.

All we need do now is to raise a glass to the next one hundred years.

COFFEE MORNING



in aid of

UNICEF

Sudan Fund

What is happening in Sudan?

Sudan is the world's largest humanitarian crisis, and children are paying the highest price.

Relentless attacks on hospitals, schools, water and power supplies have left children and families without access to essential services. 15.3 million children require protection and emergency assistance. Famine has been confirmed in parts of North Darfur and the Nuba Mountains. In Al Fasher, North Darfur's capital, 130,000 children have been trapped for over 500 days in harrowing conditions. They are facing brutal violence — including sexual violence — and extreme shortages of food, water and medicine. Children and families in Sudan need urgent protection and humanitarian aid. **Donate to our Sudan appeal today.** (From the Unicef website)

Saturday 28th February

from 10.30am

Thickthorn House, 44 Preston, SN15 4DY

Bring and buy, cakes, coffee, tea

Donations welcome

More details: 07568 311823

sally_fox@btinternet.com

Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Parish Council

https://clyffepypardbushton.org.uk

It has been a busy period for the Parish Council (PC) as we try to improve facilities and influence those who provide services to the Parish. It was great to see more parishioners attend the last PC Meeting and a number of those in attendance got involved in the various agenda item debates which is positive both for the PC and the community. The next PC meeting will be in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026 and everyone is welcome.

Before highlighting some of the key agenda items and decisions taken, I would first like to welcome the new Parish Clerk, Maria Hedges (clerk@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk). Maria lives locally and while she has not been a parish clerk before, she brings with her a wealth of administrative and managerial experience and has already shown her skills and ability to add value to the workings of the PC.

On behalf of all Councillors, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Gantlett for his selflessness, hard work and wise counsel as he is now able to step back following Maria's appointment. Since the election of the PC in May 2025, Peter has worked tirelessly giving his time freely to the PC in his role as acting Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. His expertise and experience have been invaluable as the new PC addresses some of the problems that had arisen over the previous few years. Its smooth-running and success already achieved over the past nine months is in no small part due to Peter's efforts at keeping the PC operating to the benefit of the community. The PC wishes him well on his forthcoming travels and looks forward to his safe return when he will be welcomed back into his role as 'wise counsel'.

PC Chair Cllr. David Gagen

david.gagen@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk

Some of the key actions taken at the Parish Council meeting which took place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th January 2026 were:

- **AED (defibrillator)**. The decision was taken to proceed with the second defibrillator project (the first being located at Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall), although at present no final decision has been made as to its permanent location. While grant funding will be sought, if none is available, the PC will fund the new AED. (All that remains is for the final location in Clyffe to be agreed).
- **Asset Register**. Many parishioners will remember the time when towards the bottom of Clyffe hill at the junction with Wood Street there was a wooden finger post showing directions to Broad Hinton and Marlborough, Clyffe and Bushton. That post was removed and lost. We can report that the REME Apprentice Schools in Lyneham have agreed to make a new (metal) finger post as part of their Community Outreach Program. A design is being agreed, and we hope to see the new finger post in place soon (kindly hosted by the owners of Grey Gables).
- **Road Safety**. Road Safety was again the subject of discussion, and it was agreed to press Wiltshire Council's Highways Department to improve the road surfacing on Clyffe hill. The PC Lead for Roads (Cllr. John Hughes), assisted by hillside residents, has prepared a report for its review. A copy will also be forwarded the to the LHFIG (Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group) to consider improved signage on the hill. Wiltshire Council Representative, Cllr Allison Bucknell, who was present at the meeting, explained the challenges that the Council's Highways Department face but offered her full support to the PC's efforts to improve road conditions and safety.

Note: Wiltshire Council has given notice that due to the exceptionally high volume of pothole repairs required across the county, it has agreed to extend the temporary suspension (in place for the past two months) of parish steward visits. It hopes to resume regular steward visits as soon as pothole numbers are more manageable.

Date of next PC meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm.

Parish Salt Bins

Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Parish has 9 Wiltshire Council designated salt/grit bins:

Clyffe Pypard	CLYFFE 1	On Clyffe hill at junction Bellcroft Lane and C120
Clyffe Pypard	CLYFFE 2	Outside The Coach House near The Goddard Arms
Clyffe Pypard	CLYFFE 3	Opposite The Orchard in Wood Street
Clyffe Pypard	CLYFFE 5	Downhill from Clyffe Hanging
Clyffe Pypard	CLYFFE 6	On Clyffe hill near 30mph signs
Clyffe Pypard	BUSHTON 1	Bushton Crossroads opposite no 29
Clyffe Pypard	BUSHTON 2	Outside Rebbell Cottages near The Barton
Clyffe Pypard	BUSHTON 3	Outside Village Hall on Clyffe Pypard road
Clyffe Pypard	BUSHTON 4	Opposite Hollyhouse Farm

Salt bins are available for both residents and the travelling public for use on public roads and footpaths.

When using salt bins, Wiltshire Council advice is that one should work on the basis that 1 tablespoon of salt will cover a surface area of around 1 square metre.

If you are walking past a parish salt bin, please have an occasional look in to check the salt level. Members of the community can also report empty or near empty salt bins via the MyWilts online reporting https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk using the above individual location reference to identify a depleted bin.

Alternatively, please contact Councillor Ed Rudler (ed.rudler@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk) or the Parish Clerk (clerk@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk). Ed is your councillor with responsibility for salt bins in the Parish.

Ed is aware that the salt bin at the Bushton crossroads (BUSHTON 1) is now empty. It seems that the entire contents of the bin were used on the road at this junction following the serious accident overnight on 7th/8th January. Ed submitted a request to Wiltshire Council on 8th January to have this bin re-filled.

An annual request is sent to parish council clerks in advance of winter requesting that the yellow plastic grit/salt bins be inspected by a council representative (in our parish, by Ed Rudler) to determine the repair of individual bins, whether they need refilling, and whether the existing supply has a 'thatch' on it that will require breaking up to allow easy removal of its contents. A contractor will be deployed to top-up and/or replace bins where necessary. The parish steward can be tasked (in our parish, via John Hughes) with breaking up the 'thatch' on top of the grit/salt (can require a pick axe) and strimming round the bin to allow easy access.

A limited number of Wiltshire Council supplied bags of road salt are stored in the Parish for use on public roads and paths. These are available to be dropped off in emergency cases. If required, please contact Cllr John Hughes (john.hughes@clyffepypardbushton.org.uk) who can deliver.

Clyffe Pypard and Bushton Village Hall

POP-UP COFFEE SHOP

Saturday 14th March

10.00am – 12.00noon

Choice of drinks
Home Made Cakes

Come and enjoy meeting
friends and neighbours

Contact
PennyShaddick@gmail.com
rjbjdavis@btinternet.com

Royal Wootton Bassett Monday Friendship Club

A social club for older people

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church Hall,
High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett

Mondays 2-4 pm







Tea, Coffee & Biscuits | Fun, Games & Entertainment | Companionship
Please come along to chat, meet new people and take part in activities.
Small weekly charge.

For more information, contact:
Tracey: 07563 028703
Ginny: 07500 137135

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Registered address: The Wool Shed, New Park Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1DY

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

LINK 6 & RWB

Covering the villages of Bradenstoke, Broad Town, Bushton, Clyffe Pypard, Lyneham and Tockenham, and the town of Royal Wootton Bassett.

Do you ...

... own your own car ? ✓

... have a few spare hours a week ? ✓

Would you like ..

... to help out in the community ? ✓

... a flexible volunteering opportunity? ✓

If the answer to all these is ✓✓✓✓ then **LINK 6 & RWB** would love to hear from you.

We are looking for additional **COMPANION DRIVERS** to help expand our volunteering offer.

Do please get in touch.

LINK 6 & RWB is a Good Neighbour scheme which offers a service for any member of our community who is in need of our help. They may be living with a disability, older people or those who have a temporary need through illness.

There is no charge for our help but the Link scheme depends on donations from anyone who uses our service.

Website: link6andrwb.org.uk

Call: 07879 394666

E-mail: info@link6andrwb.org.uk



Fresh Springs Care

Contact Us
Contact
T: 0179 320 0084
E: info@freshspringscare.co.uk
E: recruitment@freshspringscare.co.uk

Location
Office 83, Bowman Court, Whitehill Industrial Estate, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7DB

www.10green.co.uk

Ten Green Bottles is an initiative by Berkeley Farm in Wroughton to deliver fresh milk, dairy, veg & bread to local villages. They now deliver to Clyffe Pypard and Bushton!

If you would like to sign up, go to their website or download the App. It's easy to do and great way to reduce plastic usage.

BushLife Essentials UK

"The New Born From The Old in The Cycle of Life"

Tree Surgeon - Garden Services - Machinery Servicing & Repair
Property Security
07917 161 427
01793 739172
www.bleuk.org
bushlifee@gmail.com

Phil Hawkins

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