

West Buckland Community News

February 2017

WEST BUCKLAND RACE NIGHT

Please save the date for our ever popular Church fundraising Race Night. It is on Saturday, March 25, at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets are £5 (to include supper). The horses are now in full training after the Christmas rest, and will soon be in tip-top condition, so please come and have a fun night and support your local church. Betty 664775

YOGA CLASS

Yoga class. Suitable for beginners & intermediates. Wednesdays 5.45-6.45pm at West Buckland Village Hall. £35 for 5 or £8:50 a week, booking essential. Contact Rachael on 07969 912080
rachael@rachaelsalter.wanadoo.co.uk, Facebook *www.Facebook.com/hamiltonholistic*

POLICE BEAT SURGERY

The next beat surgery will take place on Thursday, February 2, between 5pm and 5.30pm outside the village hall.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The proposal for Taunton Deane and West Somerset to form a new council: public consultation.

The views of local people and organisations on the single council proposal are now being sought to help the Secretary of State make a fully informed decision. There is a public consultation from December 12, 2016 to February 28, 2017 seeking your views about whether the proposal to create a single new council is acceptable in principle and to inform the decision of the Secretary of State.

Additional background information can be found at www.yournewcouncil.org and you will also be able to leave a comment or question.

West Buckland Parish Council will be discussing the proposal at its next meeting on Tuesday, January 31. The meeting will start at 7.30pm and will be held in West Buckland Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend to make their views known to the council. Jill Larcombe, Clerk

CHURCH NOTICES

Thank you to the Wellington Carnival Committee for bringing Father Christmas to West Buckland, we were very pleased to see him and kind donations of £113 will be shared between the church and local charities.

Sarah Wickam invites you to an afternoon of baroque chamber music, performed on period instruments on Sunday, February 19 at 3pm in St Giles Church, Bradford-on-Tone. Tickets £8 in aid of the church from Hilary Wickham 01984 623335.

EAST GROUP SERVICE ROTA

February 2017 READINGS on pew sheets provided. <i>The Revised Common Lectionary</i>	5 th Feb OT Isaiah 58. 1-9a (9b-12) NT 1 Corinthians 2. 1-12. (13-16)	12 th Feb OT Deuteronomy 30. 15-20 NT 1 Corinthians 3. 1-9	19 th Feb OT Genesis 1. 1- 2.3 NT Romans 8. 18-25	26 th Feb OT Exodus 24. 12-end NT 2 Peter 1. 16-21
West Buckland	8.30am BCP HC	10am Parish Praise	9am HC	9am Morning Worship
Bradford On Tone	10am Morning Worship	10am Morning Worship	10.30am HC	10am Morning Worship
Runnington	10.30am Morning Worship	<i>Join Langford Budville</i>	6pm BCP HC	9.15am Joint HC
Langford Budville	10am HC	9.15am HC	10am Family Service	<i>Join Runnington</i>
Nynehead Court	10.30am Non HC	10.45am HC	<i>Join others.</i>	10.45am HC

OTHER SERVICES

CHANGE OF WEEK: instead, February 9, East Group's midweek 9.45am BCP HC Service at Bradford on Tone, refreshments after the service in village hall with coffee morning group.

ASH WEDNESDAY HC Service with imposition of ashes March 1, 9.45am Bradford on Tone, followed by refreshments with coffee morning group in village hall.

DATE	SIDESPERSONS	READERS
5 February	CHURCHWARDENS	M ROSE
12 February	CHURCHWARDENS	-
19 February	D & S FASEY	D FASEY
26 February	N HAYES / J MORRISH	J MORRISH
5 March	CHURCHWARDENS	C RAYSON

Smile at St Johns: 3.15pm-4.30pm after-school. Feb 1 and Mar 1, for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Please join us in praying for the children and families we seek to serve and share God's love with. If you're interested in getting involved as part of the Smile team, do get in touch: More details contact Andy Levett on 07595 311183.

Information about baptisms, weddings and funerals contact: Revd Alan Ellacott. Tel: 01823 669824 email rev.aellacott1969@btinternet.com *Wellington & District Team Ministry website:* www.wellingtonteamchurches.org.uk

Surviving Winter

The Bishop of Bath & Wells, Rt Revd Peter Hancock has endorsed the Surviving Winter Campaign managed by Somerset Community Foundation. Now in its seventh year, Surviving Winter appeals to people who can live without their Winter Fuel Payment to donate it to help pensioners struggling with the cost of staying warm and socially connected. Over the last three years an average of 370 people in Somerset have died each winter from causes worsened by cold conditions, nearly one in eight households in the county live in fuel poverty and about one in six older people in Somerset say they have insufficient social contact and feel socially isolated.

The Surviving Winter campaign offers you an opportunity to make a difference and it doesn't just pay for extra heating. It's hand delivered by trusted local partners, like the Community Council for Somerset's Village Agents, Age UK Somerset, Forum 21 and Citizens Advice, and can become the foundation for a new relationship that can help overcome isolation and loneliness that many older people experience. With the support of over 300 donors, Somerset Community Foundation was able to provide vital grants to 390 older people to help them through last winter. You can donate some or all of your Winter Fuel Payment. Simply send a cheque made payable to Somerset Community Foundation (write SW on the back), Yeoman House, Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN or donate online at <http://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter>. Gift Aid forms are also available to download on the website.

Dear Friends,

When you go shopping in a supermarket, have you ever asked why they only stock limited varieties of apples? After all there are at least 7,000 different varieties, most of us only get to taste a few. That got me thinking about hymns as you do, because generally in churches we only tend to sing the same few, especially at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

I was looking at the list of people we remember in times past from the church Lectionary and saw George Herbert's name. Priest and poet 1593 to 1633. He wrote about 94 hymns. We still sing his hymns today though many are rarely published in hymn books and have been forgotten. Those that are like *King of Glory King of Peace* and *Let all the World in Every Corner Sing* are probably the best known at least by regular congregations. People as occasional visitors to a church service for a wedding or funeral know *The King of Love my Shepherd is*. Most children would have sung this at school, and it still comes up on school CD hymn choices. It sings about God's love that does not fail and that often as we travel through life we stray into things that are not good for us and make foolish mistakes.

George Herbert didn't always find faith easy to follow or even understand his own faith and maybe this rings a bell with you. But he always believed that God was a God of love. The words he wrote echoed a time when life was lived with a closer acknowledgement of God's presence. But however 2017 turns out for you try and scroll up a favourite hymn in your mind that for a moment will de-clutter your thoughts. If you, like George Herbert, have found faith or belief difficult to understand just remember that as his hymn says *I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever*.

Alan. (Vicar of East Group)

WEST BUCKLAND WI DECEMBER MEETING

The final get together of the year coincided most appropriately with the anniversary of was the first West Buckland WI meeting 80 years ago in 1936. Everyone arrived bedecked in best attire carrying savouries and sweets for the Christmas buffet. The tables heaved under the great feast. Calories forgotten food heaven reigned! Back to table quizzes and treasure trails, toasts were proposed to the Queen and the Institute. It was fascinating to hear clips from the Minutes Book of what the group was up to in those inter war years in the 1930s. Times were hard and the WI as today helped wherever they could but had fun at the same time. Even when World War Two broke out meetings continued if an hour earlier than usual! Presentations and prizes were given out; The Elsie Purchase Cup for the most points in the Village Flower Show to Jean Figg, the Marjorie Palmer Cup for the most points in the Craft Section of the Show to Jean Figg, the Cup for the most points in monthly competitions to Marion Upton, the Joy Symes Rose Bowl for Golf Croquet to Jean Morrish and joint winners for the Kurling Cup to Carole Smith and Jenny Babb. Coffee, homemade mince pies and hilarious home grown entertainment was followed with *Auld Lang Syne* and the wishing of a safe journey home to all.

WEST BUCKLAND WI JANUARY MEETING

The first meeting of the year saw a full house, lots of New Year greetings, smiling faces and visitors. Business underway, voting slips were collected in for the National WI Resolutions, causes that the WI would like to bring to prominence in 2017. The final Resolution will be voted on at the AGM to be held in Liverpool on June 7. Lots of planned extra activities have been arranged including art, craft, hand bell ringing, indoor kurling, reading, singing, walking and lunch groups, ten pin bowling, soup and pud, Denman, pantomime and Ashbury Manor trips. It was emphasised to the visitors and potential new members that there is lots on offer but they can do as much or as little as they wish! A last minute speaker for the evening was Kevin Little with a talk around Donkeys, Dolphins, Foxes and Fish – a Fishmonger's Life. All were kept on the edges of their seats not knowing where his life stories would go to next! Running an animal sanctuary in Buckland St Mary and a fishmongers in Smelly Alley in Reading there was no shortage of anecdotes, he even measured up for a new fish display counter with a smoked eel as he didn't have a tape measure to hand!

Superb and thankfully not fishy sandwiches followed, along with various cakes and refreshments. The winner of the competition for a Keep Fit Tip was announced. It was won by Hilary Shove with her helpful suggestion to walk everyday and always take the stairs instead of the lift if you can. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14 at 7pm at West Buckland Village Hall. As always, a warm welcome will be given to visitors and new members.

WEST BUCKLAND FRIENDSHIP CLUB MEETING

The meeting started with the chairman welcoming and wishing a total of 78 members a Happy New Year and the distribution of cards to those members whose birthday fell during January. The business part of the morning was quickly dealt with together with a brief resume concerning the Christmas Lunch at Oake Manor, an event which everyone really seemed to enjoy. The meeting then moved on to future events the first of which is on January 26 when the club will be holding its 5th anniversary tea at which there will be a small steel band playing. Members were also reminded of the first two outings of the year – Exeter Cathedral in March and Longleat in May. We then moved on to our speaker for the day and Mr Ian Williamson gave us a talk on the three weeks he spent in Nepal trekking and fund raising on behalf of St Margaret's Hospice. The talk went down very well and we must say thanks to Ian for coming along and entertaining us royally. The next meeting will be on February 2 when Yvette Staelens will be presenting a talk on the lost singers of Somerset.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT

I hope it is a peaceful and prosperous twelve months for everyone. NEW YEAR-NEW YOU? Did you make a New Year's Resolution? Stop Smoking? Get Fit? Move House? Get Married? Learn Spanish? I hope you are keeping to it, whatever it is! I don't make resolutions, as they only last a week with me. But if I did, learning something new would be top of my list.

SS&L (Somerset Skills & Learning) offer everything from art classes to languages, yoga to photography, and computer, IT and business skills - as well as Apprenticeships and Traineeships for those aged over 16. SS&L provide communities and individuals with a way to meet new people, form friendships, learn a new hobby or skill, or take up a course for wellbeing or fitness. We Change Lives Through Learning is their motto.

Many of the courses are government-subsidised for people on benefits, so they are accessible to everyone. They are also offering free Saturday taster sessions in selected locations in Somerset, and free longer-term courses as part of a government research project into the connection between learning & wellbeing. So, lots on offer! Their new brochure is out and new website is now live: www.sslcourses.co.uk

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Last weekend...

Many people have been absolutely PESTERED by phone calls recently, up to eight in a day.... something like:-
"This is an important announcement for people on benefits. Did you know that people on benefits can have their boiler replaced for free? Press 2 to be connected to a case worker, or 9 if you do not want to receive any calls."
Is anyone else suffering in the same way?

I have had so many calls like this every day, all seem to come from different numbers when I dial 1471, but all are an STD code and a 5 digit number, most phone numbers are 6 digits these days.

I have reported it to the Information Commissioner's Office on 0303 123 1113 and <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/nuisance-calls/> so I now wait and see, none since Friday at the moment, what will the new week bring?

A day or two later.....

I had two calls each on Monday and yesterday but none so far today. I would urge everyone to report them by phone or online at the ICO website. Each one has to be done individually, but it does not take long. If the ICO get enough numbers logged they can trace the fraudsters and put a stop to this criminal activity.

If you know someone who is not online, why not help them to log these nuisance calls? Also, check they are registered with the Telephone Preference Service 0345 07 0707. This is a free service which can also cover mobiles.

Gary Larsen, Village Agent - Tel: 01823 331222 - Mobile: 07931 018019 - Email: gary@somersetccc.org.uk
Check out the CCS website: www.somersetccc.org.uk and see the variety of work we are doing.

The Newsletter is available directly to your e-mail inbox – simply send an e-mail indicating your wish to **westbucklandnews@hotmail.com** and you will be added to the mailing list.

The deadline for next month's edition is, as usual, the 20th of the month preceding.

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES: westbucklandnews@hotmail.com