

A Welcome for People Newly Arrived in the Parish

We all know that newcomers to the parish are warmly welcomed by the community. We think that a booklet giving useful basic information would also help them settle in and participate in community life. To give a personal touch, a parishioner could deliver the booklet.

Here are some ideas about what could be in the booklet:

1. Welcome Letter

A friendly welcome message.

“Welcome to our village! We hope you’ll quickly feel at home and enjoy being part of our community.”

2. About the Village

- A short history of the parish and notable features.
 - A map of the parish, highlighting footpaths, bus stops, shops, key buildings, location of noticeboards.
 - Local traditions or annual events (fêtes, open gardens, carol singing, village quiz etc.).
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3. Practical Information

- **Refuse collection and recycling** (days, what to recycle, where to get bins).
- **Public transport** (bus routes including RWMT minibus , timetables, nearest train stations).
- **Local services:**
 - Post office and shop opening hours
 - GP surgery and pharmacy details
 - Schools, childcare and playgroups
 - Local pubs, cafés, farm shops
 - Regular activities at the Memorial Hall, Including dance and exercise classes, the Buckland Coffee Morning and the Buckland Diner
 - Emergency numbers

4. Community Contacts

- **Parish Council:** clerk's contact, councillor names and photos.
 - **Village Hall:** facilities and booking information
 - **Churches and faith groups.**
 - **Parish groups:** Women's Institute, Table Tennis Club, bellringers, Buckland Choir
 - **Communication:** Parish WhatsApp Group, Parish Clerk's email, Buckland Living History Website, Village Voices
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6. Getting Involved

- **Volunteering opportunities:** Women's Institute activities, the church, drivers for the RWMT minibus, parish litter pick
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These are just some ideas; we would need a group of people to pool their knowledge and talent to create a booklet, get funding for its production and organise its distribution.

If you are interested in helping, make this idea a reality please get in touch with Mark Skipworth.

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