

JUNE 2024

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Bentley Fete 07

Binsted School News 10

Bentley Scout Group 16

Cherry Ripe 24

Binsted Fete 36

In this issue

Binsted Coffee Shop.....	4
Binsted's Church Pet Service	4
Youth & Children	5
Messy Church.....	5
Marathon Run	6
Bentley Fete & Flower Show	7
Bentley Flower Show.....	8
Binsted School News	10
Church Village Fetes	11
Phyllis Tuckwell.....	12
Bentley Garden Club Outings..	13
Bentley Memorial Hall.....	14
Magazine Support	15
Bentley Scout Group.....	16
Church Registers	17
Bentley Garden Club.....	17
Call to Artists	18
National Garden Scheme	19
Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery.....	20
West Meon Music Festival.....	22
An Audience With.....	23
Cherry Ripe.....	24
D Day Memories	25
Alton Camera Club.....	26
Anna Chaplain.....	28
Bentley School News.....	29
MINI Sudoku Games	30
Sudoku Answers	30
Saturday Café.....	30
B-Fest.....	31
Weather Statistics	32
Wickham 100+ Club	33
Binsted Dog Show	34
Bentley Wildlife	35
Binsted Fete.....	36
Advertisements	37
Local Contact Details.....	59
Services	60

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Revd Matt Boyes

matt@benbinfro.co.uk | 07469 270590

C/O Church Office, St Mary's Church, Bentley, GU10 5NA

Website: www.benbinfro.co.uk

Assistant Priest

Christopher Ogilvie Thompson

Tel: 07776 178690 | email: christopherot@me.com

Benefice Administrators

Lucinda Edwards and Marie Roberts (maternity cover)

(admin@benbinfro.org) 01420 23339

Honorary Assistant Minister

David Perryman, Treetops, Upper Froyle

Tel. 520647 david.perrypeople@gmail.com

Parishes Prayer Chain

Nick Carter 01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Pastoral Care Team

Nick Carter 01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Anna Chaplain

Fran Harrison annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

Readers – Harold Fish, 6 Bonners Field, Bentley. 22947

Bentley: St Mary's Churchwardens:

Jill Kiely, 11 Broadlands Close, Bentley, GU10 5LE - 22735

Nick Caddick, Tanners, GU10 5NE - 23229

Binsted: Holy Cross Churchwardens

Cathie Weldon, Malms House, GU34 4NU – 07828 083535

Jonathan Bourne, Sunnycroft, GU34 4PF – 07766206278

Parish Magazine

Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to Marie Roberts (maternity cover) on the **5th** of the month, by email (magazine@benbinfro.org)

Editor: Benefice Team

Designer: Mike Hammerton

Treasurer: Steve Fice, 01420 22197 steve.fice@btinternet.com

Distribution: Bentley – Harold Fish Tel 22947

Binsted – Kaye & Nigel Hicks: kaye.hicks@gmail.com

and Linda & John Kenward: lindawellsuk@yahoo.co.uk

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy that heralded the beginning of the end of the Second World War in western Europe, occurs on 6th June. By the end of the first day 4,000 men had died in the Allied armies, a huge number, but far fewer than the estimated 20,000 that Churchill had been told to expect. Ronald Reagan, speaking at the 40th anniversary event said,

“The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next. It was the deep knowledge—and pray God we have not lost it—that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.”

The courage and sacrifice of D-Day is truly humbling. For the first hour of the landing on Omaha beach, the risk of being killed was 1 in 2. Yet the overwhelming numbers of men that were able to be landed, broke Hitler’s vaunted Atlantic wall of defences and, after heavy fighting in the fields of Normandy, eventually the way to Paris was open. Germany was then fighting a rearguard action until VE Day in May 1945.

It is right that we should remember the cost of the liberation of Europe as well as remember the bravery, especially of the paratrooper and glider troops, who landed hours before the beach assault and who had to hold on until they were relieved.

In all this destruction and the messiness of victory, I am struck by a quote from the great Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, who said,

“To clasp the hands in prayer, is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

With wars ongoing in Ukraine, Gaza, Burma and many other places we may be tempted to ask, What use is prayer in the face of all this inhumanity? God has given us freewill and so often we make choices that cause harm and hurt to others and, writ large among nations, this is expressed as war and arms races and the overshadowing threat of conflict.

Barth calls us to pray. Prayer changes things in two ways. Firstly, God hears and answers prayer. Frequently in the Bible, God says, “I have heard the cry of my people” and acts to decisively change things. Secondly, we are changed by praying. To bring people and their circumstances before God, opens our heart more to their plight and increases our empathy and compassion. We are then more connected with them and less likely to be indifferent or to cause them harm. Our softened hearts make us more in tune with what God is doing and he can work through us, instead of despite us. This is his will, that people work together with him to heal the hurts and rifts and to work for peace.

After D-Day, there was much more fighting to be done, but the tide had turned, and victory was more within grasp. So, we too should pray and be changed by praying, so that we join the uprising against the disorder of the world and work with God towards peace. After the fighting is done, then comes the rebuilding and that is even more costly. May we not lose faith or allow doubt to rob us of action.

May God bless you and yours richly as we pray and work for peace together.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

@ THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX)



WEDNESDAYS 10am – 12noon (during term-time)

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US
COFFEE, TEA and HOME-MADE CAKES**

ALL WELCOME

(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI



Binsted's Church Pet Service

In Binsted Church following the Village Fete

Sunday 14th July at 11 a.m.

Bring your pets to this all-age service with hymns, songs, and a blessing for your pets.

Refreshments will be served following the service.



Youth & Children at BenBin Fro



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 Bank Holiday	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	4	5	6	7 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	8	9 9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church (year R-6)
10 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	11	12	13	14	15	16 4pm Binsted Messy Church (families)
17 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	18	19	20	21 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	22	23 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church (year R-6)
24 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	25	26	27	28	29	30





BINSTED

Binsted Village Hall (Wickham Institute) GU34 4NX

Sunday 16th June

Starting at 4pm, supper provided





www.benbinfro.co.uk
admin@benbinfro.org
01420 23339



@benbinfro_churches

Marathon Run raises £1400 for Binsted Church

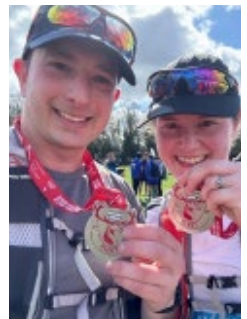


Following the passing of Binsted resident, John Droy, in November 2023, his family wanted to honour his memory whilst also supporting a great cause. They decided to support the Binsted Church Spire Appeal as John

had loved the concept of restoring old valuable buildings and now, as the church has become his final resting place, it continues to hold a special place in the hearts of John's family and friends.

How would they do this? John's son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Hannah Droy, had embarked on a fitness journey after John had been hospitalised for the first time in early 2023. They wanted to push themselves mentally and physically to echo the strength that John had shown over that last year. Although they had not run competitively before, they signed up to run the Fleet Half Marathon in March 2024 and to raise much needed funds for the church spire. They somehow found the time to train whilst raising their young family and despite a couple of last-minute injuries, ran the marathon in a very respectable time of 2 hours and 8 minutes. The sponsorship from the race raised an amazing £1,400 towards the Binsted Church appeal.

The church still desperately needs funds, and this is just one example of local residents trying to help. Binsted's own Angela Dunne recently ran some line dancing classes to raise funds for the church. These were excellent fun and a great success.



Any help, however big or small, is crucial to support our church. From a boot sale to a sponsored sport event, every penny is gratefully received and will help towards the total. Please help, if you can.

Thank you and bless you.

Tess, Jack and Hannah Droy.



Tess presenting the cheque to Matt.

THE BENTLEY FETE & FLOWER SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 20TH JULY 2024

NEW 1 PM - 5 PM

THE REC, SCHOOL LANE, BENTLEY, GU10 5JA

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON PACKED WITH
EXCITEMENT FROM 12.45PM AT THE
MEMORIAL HALL FOR THE STARTING
PROCESSION & CAVALCADE!

 FLOWER SHOW

 DOG SHOW

 GUEST STALLS

 EXCITING NEW EVENTS IN THE ARENA

 PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS INCREDIBLE DAY OF
FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT!



WWW.BENTLEYFETE.CO.UK



Bentley Flower Show

Saturday 20 July 2024

www.bentleyfete.co.uk



BENTLEY FLOWER SHOW

Please visit our website www.bentleyfete.co.uk to register your entries online by 6.00pm on Friday 19 July. There is no charge for entries. Please sign in and bring your exhibits to the Flower Show marquee on Saturday 20 July between 8.00-10.45am.

Section A Flowers

- 1 One stem of your favourite Rose
- 2 One stem of a Floribunda (Cluster) Rose
- 3 One stem of a scented Rose
- 4 A bowl of Roses
- 5 Five stems of Dahlias, one or more varieties
- 6 A bowl/vase of mixed Flowers from your July Garden
- 7 A display of Flowers, all one colour, with at least 6 stems, mixed or single variety
- 8 A vase of Sweet Peas
- 9 One stem of a Lily (Lilium)
- 10 Five stems of annuals and/or biennials
- 11 Five stems of Herbaceous Perennials
- 12 Three tall flower spikes (eg. Delphinium/ Acanthus /Foxglove/Hollyhock, mixed or not)
- 13 Five Violas, Pansies, Pinks, mixed or all one variety
- 14 A bunch of fresh Lavender
- 15 Three stems of a Flowering Shrub
- 16 Five Clematis blooms – one or more varieties, sprays acceptable
- 17 A succulent/cactus in a pot
- 18 One named flowering Pot Plant indoor or outdoor)

Section B Floral Arrangements

- 19 An arrangement of flowers/foilage in a recycled container
- 20 A small Posy
- 21 An Olympics-themed arrangement
- 22 A vase of flowers from a wild area in your garden (must be from your garden only)

Section C Fruit and Vegetables

- 23 Display of any July Produce on a tray/trug/ basket/box from your vegetable garden or allotment
- 24 A Lettuce
- 25 Three Onions as grown, washed but not peeled or plaited
- 26 Five Shallots up to 50mm diameter as grown, washed but not peeled or plaited
- 27 Seven pods of a Legume variety, mixed or not (Peas, Beans – Broad, French, Runner)
- 28 Five Potatoes

- 29 Three Courgettes – max 15 cm
- 30 A Cucumber – longer than 20 cm
- 31 Five Carrots, washed with tops left on
- 32 Three Beetroots, washed with leaves left on
- 33 A Cabbage
- 34 Little and Large – one small, one large of the same vegetable
- 35 An unusual or wonky vegetable
- 36 Three sticks of Rhubarb, leaves trimmed to approx. 7.5 cm
- 37 Collection of soft fruit (Quality not Quantity)
- 38 Collection of five different named Herbs – displayed in a pot or jar
- 39 Home Garden Compost, displayed on a paper plate, covered

Section D Produce

- 40 Your favourite Pickle or Chutney
- 41 One pot of Jam or Jelly
- 42 One pot of Fruit Curd (eg. Lemon, Passion Fruit etc.)
- 43 One loaf of Artisan Bread
- 44 One pot of Marmalade
- 45 Drink (alcoholic) – One bottle (eg. Sloe Gin or Wine)
- 46 Drink (non-alcoholic) – One bottle (eg. Elderflower Cordial etc.)
- 47 6 decorated Cup Cakes
- 48 An Apple Cake
- 49 6 Chocolate Brownies
- 50 A Light Fruit Cake (see full recipe online)
- 51 6 savoury scones
- 52 6 home-made biscuits
- 53 Six fresh eggs, attractively presented

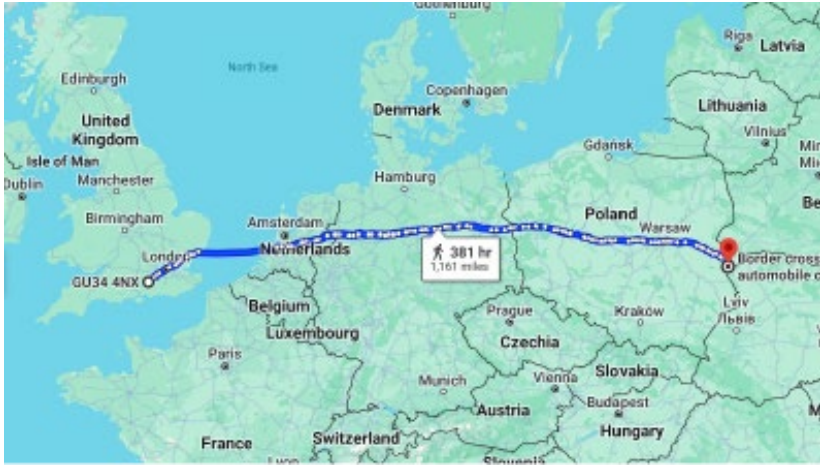
Section E Children's Classes

- 54 11 years and under Cress grown in a recycled container
- 55 Yr R Under the Sea artwork (A3)
- 56 Yr 1 Castles (cereal box size max)
- 57 Yr 2 Space rockets (cereal box size max)
- 58 Yr 3 Roman Mosaics
- 59 Yr 4 A design for a Viking artefact
- 60 Yr 5 An Egyptian sarcophagus
- 61 Yr 6 Pop Art (A4)



School News - Binsted CE Primary

At Binsted we believe in the Christian values of Faith, Hope & Love.



Binsted School Walks to Ukraine

Earlier in May we set the children a whole school task – we have challenged the children of Binsted to collectively cover the distance between school and the Ukraine border, 1161 miles!. They accepted that challenge and will be walking, running, cycling, swimming, scooting or skating as many miles as they can before the Friday 7th June.

Can you help us to help the Children in Ukraine who have not had access to proper education for over ten academic terms!! (over 3 years).

Mr Butler, the uncle of a student in Year 5, visited school last term to talk to our children about KIDZ 4 KIDZ. This is an appeal to help those school children in great need in Ukraine which is sadly still affected by the ongoing war.

Simon and Nick are farmers based at Hartley Park Farm, Selborne and run the businesses, Barn-Store Alton and The Lavender Fields alongside the main farm. They also have

business units and one of their tenants is CCLL-The Helping Hand for Ukraine (charity no 1014274 sc 0040 136) who have been working to relieve and support children and their families living on land still contaminated by the after-effects of the Chernobyl disaster for over 30 years.

Since the Covid years and now the outbreak of war in Ukraine the call on the Charity and its resources have been growing exponentially. In particular, more and more children are found to have not been receiving the core elements of education due to the loss of power, damage to schools and lack of other basic resources.

The Charity receives no Government funding, relying solely on the goodwill of its supporters and donations received.

School In A Bag (SIAB), a UK charity that does as it “says on the tin” providing a child’s essential school supplies in a school bag have

been working closely with CCLL over a number of years. This time they are offering to donate nearly 500 rucksacks for children in Ukraine.

The Butlers and their 2 businesses, Barn-Store and The Lavender Fields are contributing £1000 to start this appeal to try and help pay to send the rucksacks with school supplies in, clothes, torches, basic medical supplies and many other desperately needed supplies.

We as a school are keen to support this work.

A key part of this challenge is the fundraising. We have a Just Giving Page set up for the challenge to raise as much money for the charity as we can, with a target of £1000! If you would like to sponsor our children on their journey, please head to <https://www.justgiving.com/page/binstedschool>

We are very excited to see if we can make it all the way to Ukraine! Thank you for your support!

With kind regards,

Mrs Sharron Morton
Headteacher

Come visit

YOUR LOCAL CHURCH AT THE VILLAGE FETES

Binsted Village Fete
on
13th July 2024
1-4 pm

Bentley Village Fete
on
20th July 2024
1-5 pm

Free face painting
Crafts & fun
Prayer
opportunities

www.benbinfro.co.k
admin@benbinfro.org
01420 23339

  
@benbinfro_churches

June 2024 | 11

Phyllis Tuckwell's Open Gardens Invite You In!

Garden gates are swinging open across Surrey and Hampshire this spring and summer, welcoming visitors to these beautiful green spaces to raise money for local Hospice Care charity [Phyllis Tuckwell](#).

Phyllis Tuckwell's [Open Gardens](#) is a wonderful annual event which sees local garden owners open up their gardens for visitors to wander around and enjoy. It raises vital funds to help Phyllis Tuckwell continue caring for patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer.

Some gardens may have acres of picturesque countryside, while others are small cottage gardens full of pots bursting with blooms. If you love connecting with nature, or are maybe looking for some ideas to try out in your own garden, then this is perfect for you! There are 20 gardens across West Surrey and North-East Hampshire which are opening for the event, so you can choose to visit those closest to you, travel further afield, or maybe even plan to see them all!

"Our Open Gardens event is a wonderful way to enjoy the beauty of these fabulous green spaces, which have been so carefully tended and nurtured," said Samantha West, community fundraiser at Phyllis Tuckwell. "By paying a small entry fee to visit each garden, you'll help



to raise money to help fund our care, enabling us to support those living with an advanced or terminal illness, when they need us the most. Some garden owners will be selling refreshments and may also have plants for sale too, all to raise even more money for Hospice Care."

Phyllis Tuckwell provides supportive and end of life care, and every day it supports over 250 patients, relatives and carers, but as the NHS/ Government usually only covers about 20% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 a day to do this.

To download Phyllis Tuckwell's [Open Gardens brochure](#), which contains details of gardens that are opening this season, please visit www.pth.org.uk/open-gardens



Come and join the
Bentley Garden Club coach outings to:



The Garden Show at Stansted Park Sunday 9th June 2024

Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee.
The coach will leave Bentley Memorial Hall @ 10 am.
AND



Chelsea Physic Garden

Wednesday 11th September 2024

Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee.
The time coach will leave Bentley Memorial Hall tba.

If you are interested in joining us for either trip,
please contact Trish Cardy
(01420 22325 / trishcardy@yahoo.co.uk)

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The perfect venue for celebrations, children's parties, meetings, exercise classes or exhibitions. The Hall is conveniently located in the centre of the village and has kitchen facilities and ample car parking.

Downstairs accommodates events for up to 100 people across two rooms.

Upstairs accommodates events for up to 20 people and is ideal for meetings.

***Room for hire – 7 days a week**



Did you know the upstairs room in the Memorial Hall (Hugh Barton Room) now has its own entrance, kitchen and toilet facility? This means it can be used while the nursery is downstairs. The room is ideal for exercise classes, committee meetings and similar.

The Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club

The winners of the May draw of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

1st Bruce and Lizzie Powell 2nd Bruce and Lizzie Powell 3rd Belinda Barfoot

Congratulations to the winners.

We welcome new members to the 100+ Club. Each number costs £12 per year (£1 per month) and there are three prizes every month! 50% of membership fees go to the 100+ Club prize fund while the remaining 50% goes to the Memorial Hall to help with our running costs. The more people who join the 100+ Club, the more money paid out in monthly prizes.

To join the 100+ Club, please e-mail a request to bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

For room bookings and additional information about the Hall, further details, please visit our website www.bentleymemorialhall.org.

* The upstairs room has no disabled access and is not suitable for children.

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

The parish magazine for Bentley & Binsted is distributed to all the houses in our two villages.

Most of the costs for producing the magazine come from advertising revenues, but we are still left with a shortfall of close to £2,000 every year, which Bentley and Binsted PCCs need to cover.

It costs us around £1 to produce each copy of the magazine and we publish 10 editions per year. If you feel that you are able to contribute towards the costs of producing the magazine, please contact the magazine treasurer at bentleytreasurer@benbinfro.co.uk or you can donate online by either:

- scanning the QR code below
- or go direct to our donations page at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tv9rtxu>.



Thank you for helping us keep the magazine as something for everyone in Bentley and Binsted.



In the group photo from L to R (backrow adults) we have: Scout Leaders Sandra Payne and Melissa Salisbury, Councillor John Goodyear and Scout Leader Anthony Walters.

2nd Bentley Scout Group

Bentley Squirrels Unveil Bug Hotel at Carters' Meadow

The Bentley Scout Group's youngest members, the Squirrels, unveiled a fantastic new bug hotel on Carters' Meadow in April. They are now excitedly waiting for their creepy crawly guests to check in!

Bentley Parish Council kindly gave permission for the hotel's location on Carters' Meadow, and Cllr John Goodyear had the honour of cutting the ribbon at the grand opening.

Inspired by a talk from the Bentley Wildlife Group last year, the Squirrels were eager to do their part for wildlife conservation. Scout Leader Roz Osborne said, "We had a wonderful time collecting materials to furnish the bug hotel and learning about the different insects and other creatures that might call it home. The Squirrels

love being outdoors, and we can't wait to visit the hotel regularly to discover more about the fascinating wildlife right here in Bentley."

The Squirrels' creation is a true five-star establishment for minibests! Local resident Rob Priestley generously built the frame from recycled wood, allowing the Squirrels to add their collection of natural materials to create an inviting habitat.

Roz expressed her gratitude, saying, "We'd like to thank Rob for his invaluable help in constructing the frame. The Squirrels are very grateful for his time and expertise."

Carters' Meadow is a haven for a variety of wildlife, including invertebrates, amphibians, birds and even a small population of great crested newts. Located next to the village pond, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), the meadow boasts over 80 different plant species, providing essential food and shelter for different creatures, such as bumblebees, butterflies, beetles, and of course, newts.

Church Registers

Binsted

Sunday 28th April

Baptism of Milo McMullan

Tuesday 30th April

Funeral and burial of David Cottrell

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



First of all, thank you to everyone who helped, produced plants and came and bought plants at our plant sale last month.

Our next regular monthly evening meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd September when Elizabeth Sawday will give a talk entitled "Roses grow on you".

That does not mean that there is nothing planned during the summer though!

Sunday 9th June 2024 - Coach outing to Stansted House Flower Show, leaving Bentley Memorial Hall @ 10am. Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee.

It is a great day out.

If you are interested in coming, please contact Trish Cardy (01420 22325 / trishcardy@yahoo.co.uk)

Saturday 20th July - Bentley Fete – We hope to run the Garden Club plant stall so please put aside any excess plants so that we can sell them at the Fete. If you can spare some time to help on the day, please let one of the committee know.

Wednesday 11th September 2024 – Trip to Chelsea Physic Garden. Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee. If you are interested in coming, please contact Trish Cardy (01420 22325 / trishcardy@yahoo.co.uk)

Call to Artists Inspired by the South Downs

The South Downs are a muse for many with the meandering chalk hills, billowing grass and lowlands, ancient woodlands surrounding market towns and framed with a dramatic coastline. Stretching from Hampshire to Sussex, artists and writers have for centuries responded to the light and the landscape. Home to Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf and a country escape for J.M.W. Turner, the South Downs continues to inspire today with a broad community of artists choosing to live, work and respond to the many aspects of the South Downs—from open landscapes, private spaces and the very material that defines it.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery celebrates the history, landscape, and creative community of artists with the **South Downs Open 22 October 2024 - 1 February 2025**.

All artists inspired by this region are encouraged to apply by **30 August 2024 (5pm BST)**.

The exhibition will be hosted in the award-winning galleries of Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery located in Petersfield, East Hampshire.

“We invite artists, amateur and professional, to share your connection to the South Downs. Whether your inspiration is its landscape, its history, the experience of living or working in the region, memories of visits, or how it inspires you to think and feel.”

[Louise Weller, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery]



Artists are encouraged to submit up to two artworks in various mediums, including paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, textiles, or text art. Submissions for artists over 18 are £10 per artwork (non-refundable), while submissions for young artists under 18 are free (booking still required). A distinguished panel, featuring contemporary sculptor **Alison Crowther**, author and illustrator **Tiffany-Francis-Baker** and curator **Louise Weller**, will select approximately 75 artworks for display.

“The South Downs Open developed out of the idea of sharing the creativity and supporting the artists inspired by this region as an amazing way to finish our 25-year anniversary celebrations.”

[Dan McWilliam, Director of Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery]



Awards

The panel will award the Over 18 winner the opportunity of a solo exhibition in the Flora Twort Gallery in 2026. Under 18 and Under 11 winners will receive vouchers from Jackson’s Art Supplies. Visitors will also have the chance to vote for the **People’s Choice Award** (Over 18 category), with the winning artist receiving a cash prize of £250.

For more information and how to submit your artwork, visit:

<https://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk/events/south-downs-open>





BINSTED PLACE & WHEATLEY HOUSE GARDENS
OPENING FOR THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME
SUNDAY 9TH JUNE, 2 – 6

BINSTED PLACE, RIVER HILL, GU34 4PQ

is a traditional English country garden, with many roses, pergolas, herbaceous borders, kitchen garden and orchards. It is made up of several walled and hedged garden 'rooms' set round the 17th C farmhouse which is Binsted Place.

WHEATLEY HOUSE, WHEATLEY LANE, GU35 9PA

is a beautifully planted artist's garden of many colours, which the owner has designed and developed over 40 years and which has already given pleasure to so many visitors.

TEAS served at Wheatley House (donations)

Entry to both gardens £10, children under 16 free.

Well behaved dogs on leads.

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday to Sunday

Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY

EXHIBITION

Re:Connecting - Habitats, Wildlife, People

This exhibition of work by ceramicist Bridget Macklin and photographer Alex Potts, delivered in partnership with The Friends of Blacknest Fields, Binsted Parish Council and Alton Natural History Society, continues until 23rd June. FREE. The artists will be giving a free talk on the 22nd at 3pm.

GALLERY WORKSHOP

Cyanotype

Saturday 8th June, 2-4pm, Allen Gallery
Join wildlife photographer Alex Potts for an introduction to the fascinating world of photography and chemistry, using sunlight to create beautiful blue and white prints from leaves, grasses and flowers. Tickets £7.50 through the Gallery. Suitable for anyone aged 7+

ALLEN GALLERY and REGENCY WEEK

21ST - 30TH JUNE

The Gallery is delighted to be involved with this popular celebration. We are hosting 3 events -

Tea and Promenade on Sunday 23rd

Film - **Pride and Prejudice** on Tuesday 25th. This is the 1940 movie with Laurence Olivier and Greer Garson, reckoned by many to be the finest version

Open Afternoon at the Gallery 1.30 - 4pm on Wednesday 26th. Come and have a look round, a guided tour, have a cup of tea in the lovely garden. (No booking required).

For more details and BOOKING for the first two please see the Town's Jane Austen Regency Week website <https://www.eventim-light.com/uk/a/64d369846cc17b736d88ff48/s/650430ab0e6a5c5612acbf2>

(You can find it by typing in Jane Austen Regency Week 2024).

OPEN ART EXHIBITION

As part of Alton Arts Festival the Allen Gallery will be holding an Open Art Exhibition from 5th July - 8th September. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES is 10th June. More details from the Gallery.

Gallery and Museum Shops

These have long been known as sources of beautiful cards and interesting presents. Now Volunteers at the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery have been putting their crafting skills to good use to raise funds for the venues. One

skilful Volunteer has produced items such as cross-stitch kits, stitched, braided and woven items like key rings, and crafted boxes.

Another has some colourful miniature pincushions, bookmarks and shoelaces, hand-woven and hand-dyed. The shoelaces and bookmarks are made on Japanese braiding looms, whereas the pincushions have hand-woven bases and tops, with matching glass headed pins.



It is hoped that these two gifted craftspeople will demonstrate some of their skills in the Gallery from time to time - drop in to watch them at work.

CURTIS MUSEUM

DOLLS HOUSE WEEKEND 27/28TH JULY
10.30am - 4pm

The Curtis Museum is opening its doors again to dolls houses large and small to view and play with. The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery will be offering handmade and pre-loved items including a number of dolls houses, for cash sales only. In addition there will be miniature items for sale from the Museum's shop.

This year the main event will be on Saturday 27 July and the Museum will be joined again by the North East Hants Miniatures Group. Kennet Miniaturists will also be joining us, for the first time. In addition, there will be local exhibitors to support the day's activities. There will be a themed trail for everyone to follow on both days.

On Sunday 28 July the main event will be the dolls houses for children to play with, along with various activities for them to enjoy. This event will be attractive to all those interested in dolls houses and accessories.

For more information please contact the Community Manager on 01420 82802 or email alton.museums@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk.





Musical delights at West Meon

There will be plenty of musical treats in store this year at the 14th annual West Meon Music Festival (12th to 15th September) with an award-winning pianist, a group of world-renowned baroque musicians, and two of the UK's most-talented young string players joining the Primrose Piano Quartet for eight concerts over the four days.

Highlights from the festival include piano quartets by Mozart, Schumann and Brahms as well as a rarely-performed piano sextet by Sergei Lyapunov, who fled to Paris after the 1917 Russian revolution, when the quartet will be joined by double bassist Will Duerden and violinist Tom Aldren.

While most concerts are held at West Meon's St John the Evangelist Church, the festival also extends elsewhere into the Meon Valley. Cutting edge baroque quartet Red Priest (named after the original "red priest" – Antonio Vivaldi) have been delighting audiences across the globe since 1997 and will be bringing their unique style of high-energy performances and theatrical presentation to East Meon church on the morning on Saturday 14th September. "Truly Madly Baroque" will explore themes of love,

joy and madness. Later in the day the lovely 12th century Church of Our Lady in Warnford is home to a recital by the Primrose's string players of works by Purcell and Mozart.

On Sunday morning (15th September) Lithuanian pianist Gabrielė Sutkutė – winner of some 20 international piano competitions – will be performing works by Rameau, Brahms, Debussy and Prokofiev in West Meon, while that afternoon's festival finale sees the Primrose Piano Quartet focussing on "German Romantics" with works by Felix Mendelssohn, his sister Fanny, Emilie Mayer and Robert Schumann.

In addition there will be a late-night jazz concert by local band, East of Meon, at West Meon's iconic Thomas Lord pub in aid of Cosham-based The Elizabeth Foundation – the UK's leading charity for pre-school deaf children; the charity uses music as part of its therapy to help them to talk and communicate.

Ticket prices start at £19 and the box office will open at the beginning of June.

For full details of all concerts visit www.westmeonmusic.co.uk.



Save the date

An audience with

Jonathan Viera



Details to follow

**6th
December
2024**

At St Mary's Bentley



I have a wild cherry tree *Prunus avium* in my garden. It has been here longer than I have, and I choose to believe it was no human, but a jackdaw, that planted it here.

As I sit here admiring it, the interminable rain is washing away the last remnants of one of its finest shows of blossom. The pollinators have moved on. Just one wood pigeon continues graze. Many other species of bird, and some small mammals, will return, of course, later in the year and sit waiting to pounce on the fruits as they turn from green to yellow. A few may be missed at first and make it through to red, but not for long.

The tree invests heavily in the blossom, having to emerge early from its winter dormancy to start the buds while there is little competition for the attention of bumble bees and peacocks. But the real prize is the crop of fruit that will result.

Different species of tree have a variety of ways to spread their DNA. In the 300 million

years they have been around they have come up with many different options. *Homo sapiens* has cause to be grateful that the generation of fruits has been a popular option. The first of us to arrive back on this peninsula (as it was then) with the retreat of the glaciers, will have been particularly glad for the cherries, as there was little else to start with. Their stones have been found in a Bronze Age crannog in Ireland. They can be eaten raw, of course, but they can also be preserved as jam or spirits.

I am focussed here on the wild cherry, but those first returning humans would also have found the bird cherry *Prunus padus* with its attractive black fruits; then quickly spat it out (still a win for the tree then!) as the flesh tastes bitter. Given its name, I suspect the birds have no such compunction. Its unpopularity also spread into folklore as bird

cherry was looked upon as the witch's tree and its timber was used only for firewood.

I should also mention cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*. It looks like a laurel, smells like a laurel, but the leaves accumulate dangerous levels of cyanide. If you allow it into your garden, as hedging for instance, avoid clipping and burning the leaves.

We have so taken cherries to our hearts that we have interfered with the nature of these trees as often as we have in the case of dogs. Collins Tree Guide lists 400 species. The Japanese are the champions. The results are divine.

Cherry wood is ideally suited for decorative joinery and cabinet-making, with an attractive, pinkish-brown or honey-coloured heartwood. It was also used for musical instruments, including pianos and violin bows, as well as beehives.

Decking the church with cherry blossom was an old custom in the Chiltern Hills, where the trees are abundant, but, as ever, there were other parts of the country where the practice was considered as unlucky, especially at a wedding. Yes, I know, it's a minefield, isn't it?

Ben Hamlin, *Tree Warden*
binstedtrees@gmail.com

D Day Memories from Mary Wilde

We lived in Sussex and my Father, who listened to the Radio, knew D Day was soon going to happen. Other signs were an Army Camp sprung up in the water meadows where we used to play and paddle in the streams. Also, the Salvation Army Hall had been turned into a canteen where my mother helped giving the soldiers some home comfort. Then several of the soldiers came to have a bath at our house. It meant keeping our boiler going to heat the water all week! One soldier, called Wilf, would chat to me while he was waiting his turn for a bath. He was rather dashing, and he told me he would visit when they came back.

Then one day it all happened. The army camp became deserted and at night aeroplanes flew over nonstop but there

was one awful thud which shook the house but did not break any windows. In the morning, I went up the hill behind us to investigate and saw a huge glider which had crashed. It was already being guarded. The planes had been towing these gliders containing supplies to help the liberation forces in France. When I cycled to school a few days later the sky was an ominous grey with an orange sun trying to shine through. It was quite eerie but I knew later that it was the smoke screens used in the invasion that had drifted across the channel. Wilf never did come back but I remember him on 11th November.

Mary Wilde
Resident near Coldreys.



Ian Bailey: Goodwood Funfair



AS: Refraction



Storm at Newhaven Kelvin Perry



Paul Booker: Finely Balanced

**Alton
Camera
Club**
Founded 1957



Kingfisher territory Dispute Tony Cole



Jacqui Austen



Lynne Harles



Walk, Ride or Drive Renee Smith



Nina 2



Tim Higgs

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Anna Chaplain

Hello everyone! It's so good to be part of the Benbinfro team, and I really want to say a huge thank you to everyone I've met so far, especially the wonderful Anna Friends, for your warm welcome and support.

Just a little bit about me so that you know who I am... I was born and raised in Durban, South Africa (for those who aren't sure of the geography of South Africa, Durban is on the fabulously warm Indian Ocean coast, and most of my early years were spent on the beach!) The sea has always been an intrinsic part of my life, and now, living in the UK, I still need to get to the sea on a regular basis when my soul needs feeding! Fortunately my daughter and her family's home is in Pembrokeshire, in Wales, and that to me is a little slice of heaven which I visit regularly.

I'm blessed to be the mum of three wonderful children – my daughter and her husband are both teachers and have lived in Ascot and latterly Crowthorne for 23 years with their three beautiful daughters; I have a son still in South Africa, and my younger son and his wife have recently moved from West Yorkshire in order for him to take up a position with St Paul's church in Salisbury. They're expecting their first baby next month, so another blessing is on it's way!

I was ordained into the Anglican Church in South Africa in 2006, and for the next ten years led a vibrant church in Pietermaritzburg, called All Saints United Church. It was in 2016 whilst we were hosting a conference that I felt God's whisper that would change my life – the whisper that my work at All Saints was pretty much done, and He had new plans for me. I ignored that for as long as I possibly could, as we do when we don't want to hear something, but we know that it's difficult to ignore God for long when He speaks, and within 8 months I had left my church, packed up my belongings

and arrived in the UK in June 2016 with no clear idea of why God had brought me here. But He soon revealed His plan – I quickly became part of a local church and was soon on the staff team. After having lived happily on my own for 12 years, I also met my husband, Chris, soon after I arrived, and we were married in August 2020. He passed away unexpectedly in January last year, but I do believe that being part of each other's lives was all within God's plan for us, and we were incredibly blessed during our short time together.

Pastoral ministry, and in particular ministry among the elderly, has always been my passion, and I had been praying that God would use me again in some way, but I prayed in particular for an opportunity to serve Him in a place where folk perhaps feel a little lost or abandoned, vulnerable. I think that Chris' final weeks in a care home brought to me a fresh awareness of the need of older folk who have given so much during their lives, both within the church and within society, but who feel that they have become a burden, or worse, forgotten about, as they've aged and become less mobile and more frail.

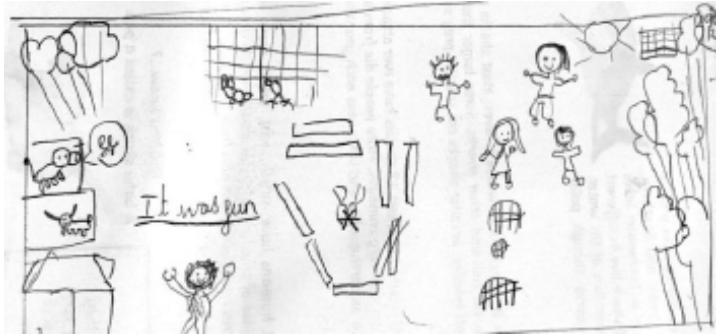
I'm blessed to have been invited to join the staff team in a self supporting role at St Peter's in Yateley as Assistant Minister, with a focus on pastoral care, and I began that this month. And so it has felt like just another move of God that He has opened the door for me in this beautiful benefice too, and I pray that our work, as Anna Chaplain and Anna Friends, would continue to shine the light of God's love and grace in hearts that have grown weary and hopeless. I'm excited to see His plan for Anna Chaplaincy in the benefice unfold, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks, perhaps starting with the Benefice service in June, at which I've been invited to speak.



Bentley CE Primary

The summer term seems to be flying past so quickly here at Bentley CE Primary School. We have been incredibly busy the last few weeks and have certainly enjoyed the sun making an appearance.

We have been taking our learning outside as much as possible. Year 1 children have been taking part in weekly Forest Explorer sessions, where they have been learning how to use tools safely by whittling sticks to roast marshmallows on a fire.



Last week our Year 3 and Year 4 classes went off to the Gordon Brown Centre for a residential. The children had an amazing time and it was a real opportunity for them to learn outside of the classroom. There were so many opportunities throughout the few days for them to challenge themselves, develop their problem-solving skills and to work as a team. The staff were all incredibly proud of the children's determination and resilience during this time.

'We had lots of fun doing the different activities. At the beginning people were a little scared when it was tricky but they were fine after. We had a camp fire and got to sleep in triple bunks!'

'On the zip line there were three different options – Normal, Mega and Ultra Mega! In the Mega you get a huge push down the zip wire and in the Ultra Mega you get spun around whilst going down the zip wire!'

Year 1 have also had the opportunity to bring their learning alive with a trip to Arundel Castle to support their history topic.

'We went to Arundel Castle. First we went up a winding staircase and it was very steep. After that we saw the armoury and we saw guns and swords from a long time ago. We looked at the slits in the castle walls where they shot out the arrows. Finally we dressed up. It was lots of fun!'

In the school building the children have all been busy auditioning, practising and rehearsing for our up and coming 'B-FEST'. It is set to be a musical extravaganza, with every class performing a song as well as individual acts taking place. There will also be refreshments, activities, a BBQ and much much more. It would be wonderful for as many people from the local community to come and enjoy the festivities – 22nd June 12-4pm in the school grounds.

Warm regards,

Vicky Hallett Headteacher

		7		6		2	8	
			2				7	
3		1						4
	1		6					7
		9	7		8	5		
2					4		1	
4						1		3
	9				2			
	6	2		5		4		

	8	2			3			4
		1		2			3	
	5		7	4				
	9				5			7
	2						6	
5			9					1
				3	7			5
	7			1		6		
2			6			7	8	

Sudoku May Answers

Sudoku EASY

5	8	4	9	6	3	1	2	7
9	3	7	4	2	1	6	5	8
6	2	1	7	8	5	9	3	4
8	5	2	6	7	4	3	9	1
1	4	6	5	3	9	7	8	2
3	7	9	8	1	2	4	6	5
7	1	8	2	9	6	5	4	3
2	9	5	3	4	7	8	1	6
4	6	3	1	5	8	2	7	9

Sudoku MEDIUM

7	1	2	3	6	9	4	5	8
5	3	4	7	8	1	6	9	2
8	9	6	4	5	2	1	3	7
2	5	7	6	3	4	9	8	1
1	4	3	9	2	8	7	6	5
6	8	9	1	7	5	3	2	4
9	6	8	5	4	7	2	1	3
4	2	1	8	9	3	5	7	6
3	7	5	2	1	6	8	4	9

Sudoku HARD

5	3	8	9	1	4	7	6	2
4	1	2	3	6	7	8	5	9
9	6	7	2	8	5	1	4	3
6	8	1	5	4	3	2	9	7
3	5	9	8	7	2	6	1	4
2	7	4	1	9	6	5	3	8
7	2	3	4	5	1	9	8	6
8	4	5	6	2	9	3	7	1
1	9	6	7	3	8	4	2	5

Saturday Café



Bentley Memorial Hall

Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30pm

Coffee, tea and cakes



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04

**April
2024**

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

20.1°C (12th & 30th) to 10.3°C (22nd)
15 days above 15°C



Nighttime minimum

-0.8°C (22nd) to 12.4°C (6th)
4 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

1.39 inches (35.4 mm) over 17 days



Wettest days

0.41 inches (10.4 mm) (2nd)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South South West



Maximum gust

27 mph (15th)

Parish Weatherman



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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the
May 2024 draws:

May 2024

1st prize Geoffrey Clarke

2nd prize Sarah Jane Cardy

3rd prize Ron Neil

Details of the June 2024 draw will appear in the next magazine.

Remember each number only costs £12 (£1 per month) and you
have three chances to win each month!

50% of the monthly purchase price of each number goes in prizes
and 50% to the running costs of The Wickham Institute. The more
people that participate in the 100+ club, the more money that is paid
out in monthly prizes.

If you would like to participate an application form can be obtained
from Andrew Croom-Johnson on 01420 23157 or email a request to
Andrew at treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk

FUN FAMILY DOG SHOW

Saturday 13th July 2024, 1-4PM

Binsted Recreation Ground, GU34 4PB

Bring your four-legged friends along for a paw-fect day out at the Binsted Fete. Enjoy our traditional village fete with something for everyone - including stalls & activities, tractor rides & petting farm, grand raffle & much more!

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For full category information and Ts&Cs please visit www.binstedfete.co.uk or email: dogshowbinsted@gmail.com



Entry to each class is limited so we recommend you register early to avoid disappointment. Online entry before 8pm on Thursday 11th July 2024 - £1.50 per dog, per category. On the day entry - £2 per dog, per category.





BENTLEY WILDLIFE



Balancing Home Projects with Wildlife Needs

Home improvements such as extensions, garden rooms, or hard landscaping can enhance your living space and lifestyle, but it's important to consider the impact on wildlife. Wildlife habitats play a vital role in supporting various species, and even modest changes to your property can disrupt them. This article offers tips on how to undertake home improvements while preserving wildlife habitats and creating a harmonious balance between your needs and the natural environment.

The Importance of Wildlife Habitats

Wildlife habitats provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a variety of animals. They can exist in gardens, ponds, hedgerows, and even roof spaces. When these habitats are affected, it can harm the wildlife that depend on them.

In addition to their ecological value, wildlife habitats offer various benefits for people. Studies show that spending time in nature can improve our mental and physical health. Wildlife-friendly landscapes can also help reduce noise pollution and improve air quality.

Legal Regulations

There are several pieces of legislation that exist to protect wildlife species including the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. For example it is a criminal offence to disturb nesting birds, and species such as bats, hazel dormice, badgers and some amphibians, like great crested newts, are protected. Make sure you understand these regulations before you begin any home improvement project.

Bentley Wildlife Group

w: bentleywildlife.org

fb: [Bentley Wildlife Group](#)

How to Improve Your Home Without Disrupting Wildlife Habitats

You can minimise the impact of your home improvement project on wildlife with the following strategies:

Plan carefully: Assess the wildlife that may be present on your property and plan your project to avoid disturbing their habitats.

Work with a wildlife-friendly professional: Builders or landscapers experienced in working with wildlife can guide you on minimising disruption during construction.

Time your work thoughtfully: Avoid construction during breeding seasons or when wildlife may be hibernating.

Preserve existing habitats: Try to keep existing wildlife habitats like trees, hedgerows, ponds, and nesting sites intact.

Create new habitats: If existing habitats must be altered, compensate by creating new ones on your property. This can involve planting trees and shrubs, creating ponds, or installing bat or bird boxes.

Benefits of Wildlife-Friendly Home Improvements

Embracing wildlife-friendly home improvements can give you many benefits, including:

- Reduced environmental impact
- Improved mental and physical wellbeing
- Decreased noise pollution
- Enhanced air quality
- Potential increase in property value

By following these tips, you can create an even more wildlife-friendly space that enhances your home for both you and the natural world.



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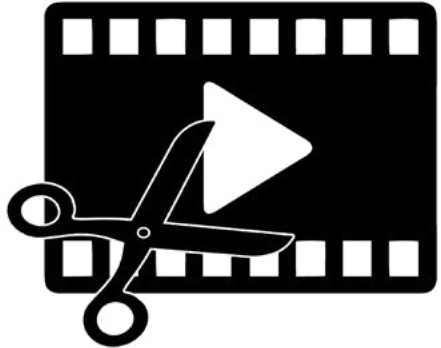
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'ZOE WAS SO INFORMATIVE BEFORE I TOOK MY 18 WEEK OLD PUPPY. IT WAS SO GREAT TO GET REAL ADVICE ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR PUPPIES AND SHE WAS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE BREED AND TYPE OF HAIR SHE'D BE DEALING WITH. THE PUPPY INTRO SESSIONS ARE A GREAT IDEA TO ALLOW A PUPPY TO GET USED TO SOME GOOD OLD PAMPERING.'

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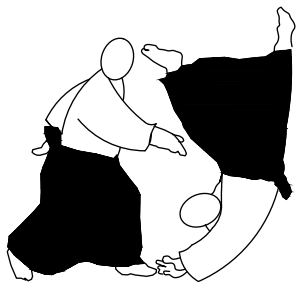


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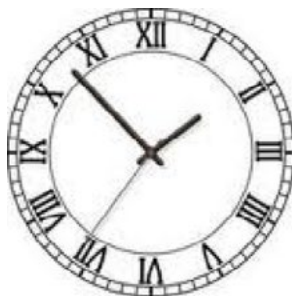
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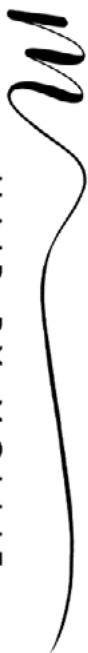
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www.bentleymemorialhall.org

Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913
martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk

Garden Club Chairman

Andrew Croom-Johnson Tel: 01420 23157
Treasurer Patricia Cardy Tel: 01420 22325

District Council

Phillip Davies
Email phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk

Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Fuller 07768 558751
johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539
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Bentley School

Headteacher: Vicky Hallett 01420 525010
Email: bentleyschoolptfa@gmail.com

Childcare

Dottie Tots: Karen 07387 576 307

Fête Committee

Chairman: Hugh Chissell, Greystones, Bentley
01420 23117

Flower Show

Chairman: Vanessa Remington 01420 525322

Phoenix Group: Linda Fuller 07891 825410
email: lindafuller1105@gmail.com

Bentley Rec Ground

Chair: Stephen Whowell
stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Joint Parish Organisations

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Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

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2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

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BINSTED

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The Wickham Institute

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Binsted School

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Fête and Flower Show

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Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

Chair: Nial Dunne 01420 22922 nial.dunne@sky.com
Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 541
Website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/btcc/>

Growmore Club Secretary:

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Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby
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Binsted Cricket Club

Chairman: John Dineen 01420 617814
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Binsted Football Club

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Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

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June Services

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11am Oakhanger Holy Communion
6:30pm Bentley Praise

9th June 8am Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
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11am Froyle Holy Communion
6:30pm Kingsley Praise

16th June 9:30am Froyle Morning Worship
Father's Day 11am Kingsley Holy Communion
4pm Binsted Messy Church 🌸



23rd June 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
& Children's Church 🌸
11am Binsted Morning Worship
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30th June 11am Froyle Benefice Service



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