



The Benson Bulletin

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*Village News
Activities
Information
Local Events
and
Guide to Local Services*



This Month...

- *Benson Millstream Centre*
- *Parish Notes*
- *Bensington Society*
- *Preston Crowmarsh Author*
- *FOBL*
- *Bensington Society*



December/January 2019/20

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Volume 26 No.4



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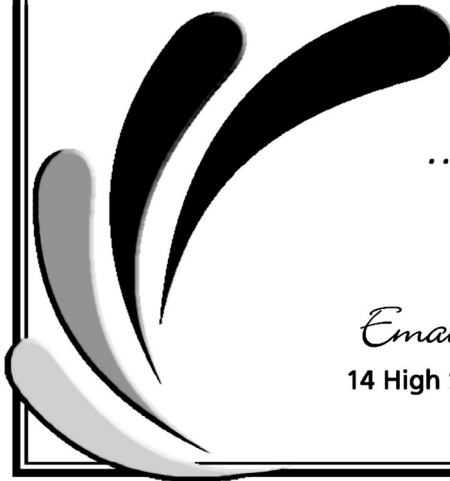
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Editor's Column

"Grandfathers are just antique little boys"

I am about to cross my last Rubicon. By the time you read this I will be, or be about to be, a Grandfather for the first time. So December for our household will be more than about just one baby, that Christ child born in Jerusalem all those many years ago.

I have stood a number of times on the Mount of Olives, looked out, and marvelled at how small and domestic the Christmas and Easter stories are. To my right is the Garden of Gethsemane, in front of me the Via Dolorosa and Golgotha, to my left, five miles away, Bethlehem and over sixty miles to the right, beyond Gethsemane, lies Nazareth.

I wonder at the journey that poor family had to make just because the Romans wanted to count heads in a census, and I remember the disaster that befell them, in a world without Expedia or Tripadvisor, of finding nowhere to lay their weary bodies after such a long and tiring walk. And yet they found hospitality and comfort, and received gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. I have always wondered about those gifts – why them, and what were they expected to do with Gold?

Travelling around the Yemen some years ago, as a companion to a friend who had been commissioned to write a book on spice, we researched those gifts that are found in abundance in that country which is now so dreadfully ravaged by war. We discovered that to this day all three spices (and there is an academic view that 'gold' was at the time the name of a spice) are given to and used by Yemeni mothers as restoratives immediately after childbirth. And I understood. Even though these spices have many other uses, for me those Wise Men, the Magi, were giving the new Mother gifts to heal and restore her, they were thoughtful and loving presents. They were, if you like, Medicare from the South.

I hope all the BB's readers receive presents given with equal thought and love this Christmas and I also trust that many of you will rally round as we compete with Regent Street and turn on our festive lights on the 5th.

As we head into the new year the village will once again flourish, its two pubs will re-open, a coffee shop is on the horizon and who knows what other delights await Benson in 2020?

So Happy Christmas and New Year to all and thank you for sparing your time to read and nurture the Bulletin in 2019.

Benson Bulletin

AGM

Tue 20th February 2020

Parish Hall Lounge 8.00pm

The Benson Bulletin invites all its readers, advertisers and residents to its AGM.

All BB recipients are automatically members of the BB News Association, and entitled to vote at the meeting. Please come along to find out how the magazine is produced, financed and distributed and meet the team.

We look forward to seeing you.

**email your letters/articles to
bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk
or deliver/send them to
Benson Parish Hall**

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In Memoriam Tony Holder

Brenda, Daniel and Gemma would like to thank all those who attended Tony's funeral in September and for all the cards, flowers and messages of condolence received at this sad time. The love and support was hugely appreciated and would have meant so much to Tony.

Donations received online and through the church collection totalling £1311.89 have been sent to Royal Papworth Hospital Charity and to Thames Valley Air Ambulance.



Parish Notes



A4074/Church Road junction

At the September full council meeting of Benson Parish Council the concept of a Toucan crossing on the A4074 near Rivermead was approved by the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Team was asked to investigate how this can be funded.

Spring Bulbs

Thank you to all those who have come to the hall so far to collect bulbs to plant. For those who have expressed interest and not managed to get here yet, there are still plenty of daffodil bulbs to be planted!

Benson Christmas Countdown

Please remember that the High Street will be closed to vehicles on Thursday 5th December between 6 and 7pm during the lantern parade. Please come along to watch the parade and see the Christmas lights switch on. The shops will be open late, and Hook Norton Brewery will be joining the Friends of Benson School stall introducing themselves (and their beer) to the village.

Thank You

The Parish Council would like to thank more residents who have quietly been doing their bit for the village. Thank you to Tony in Brook Street who along with residents of Passey Crescent has been keeping the verge by the brook neat and tidy.

Thanks also to Delia who sneaks up when we aren't looking to tidy the flower bed outside the Parish Hall! That we know of, Delia also tends to a patch of flowers along Church Road and the flowers around the Millstream Car

The Talking BB

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Park public convenience. And once again, thank you to Peter Keable for his very kind donation of the Christmas tree to the village, and for organising its delivery.

Village pubs

Following a brief period when the village had no pubs open, The Three Horseshoes has now reopened. The Crown Inn is now officially owned by Hook Norton Brewery and the provisional start date for refurbishments to the building is 6th January 2020. Chrissy's Country Kitchen will remain open until at least then.

Parishes Against Gravel Extraction (PAGE)

PAGE has announced that the areas that have been put forward for gravel extraction up until 2034 are near Cassington and between Nuneham Courtenay and Oxford.

SG7, the water meadow at Benson and SG13, the large field between Benson and Shillingford have been ruled out permanently for archaeological reasons and other matters. Benson (along with Warborough and Dorchester) no longer needs to contribute to PAGE funds as there is no threat.

Dog Fouling

The Parish office receives continued complaints of dog owners allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths and not pick it up, this is especially a problem along the Littleworth footpath which is very well used by children on their way to and from school. Please keep an eye on what your dog is doing and pick up what it does.

Christmas Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 23rd December and reopening on Monday 6th January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Elizabeth Stanley: clerk@bensonpc.org.uk
01491 825038

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Benson Bulletin

THANK YOU!

The Benson Bulletin Committee would like to thank the BB distribution team for their continuing support and hard work over yet another year. You are all very much appreciated, and the magazine wouldn't exist without you.

Patricia Baylis, Ann Truesdale, Michelle Staniforth, Sherwin Smith and Margaret Adams have retired from the team during the year. A big thank you to them for their help over the years.

Ivor Allen

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Parish Hall lounge Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 8pm

At the last AGM in February 1919, those who attended were given a comprehensive account of the reasons why the BB Committee felt the time had come to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This involves an application to the Charity Commission which in turn requires a revised constitution. At that meeting, a draft revised constitution was presented and the Chair, Jill Parrick, pointed out the key differences with the current one. In fact, there were very few substantive changes although the document was set out in a very different way. The meeting agreed that the Bulletin should go forward with an application to the Charity Commission (CC) and the new constitution was agreed without amendment. The application has since been made, although the CC says it is dealing with a high number of applications so it is unclear how long we might have to wait for a response. We will of course let you know via the BB and hope to have some more information by the time of the 2020 AGM.

Grants

The BB's finances are healthy, so we would like to remind all local groups and societies that we would be pleased to consider any applications for "one-off" funding. In the last two financial years ending November 2018 we have made grants totalling £10,000. To request a grant please contact Kate Hart, BB secretary at kate.h@ntlworld.com or ring any committee member: phone numbers are in each edition of the Bulletin. We will then send



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you an application form. The February 2020 edition of the BB will include information on Committee members standing for election/ re-election and also information about where the annual accounts may be viewed.

We look forward to seeing you at the
AGM.

Thank You

Ian and Elizabeth Leppard would like to thank all the people who kindly gave items and books to fund raise over the summer. The amount raised all together was £1,229.27p. which has been distributed to the charities.

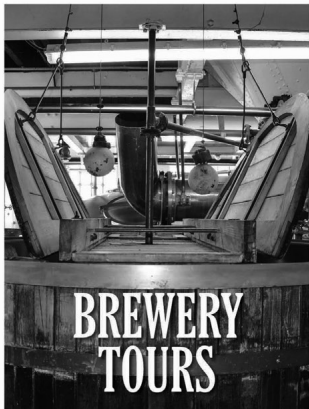


Scout Christmas Post


Are you sending local Christmas cards? 1st Benson Scout group will deliver your local cards for only 30p! Find our post boxes in Benson Library, Benson Millstream Centre, Maison White (Benson High Street) and Ewelme Village Store from 1st December. Please fully address the cards, and then just pop your money in the box with them. Last posting date is Wednesday 18th December.

Areas covered are Benson, Wallingford, Crowmarsh, Winterbrook, Cholsey, North and South Stoke, Mouldsford, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Preston Crowmarsh, Roke, Rokemarsh, Berrick Salome, Warborough, Shillingford and Ewelme. Thank you for supporting your local Scout groups.

Sarah Foster

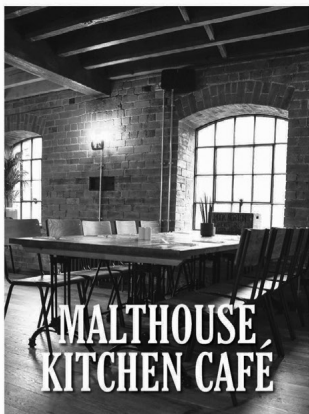


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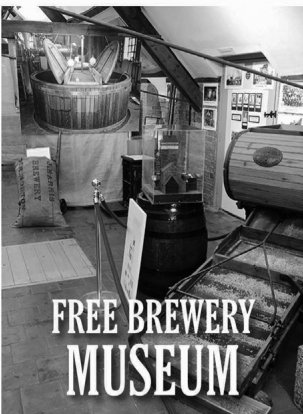
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Andrea Powell & Sue Cooper

General Election Restrictions

As you all know, there will be a General Election on 12th December, which means that until then, the District Council is in a period of so-called “purdah”, during which it cannot be seen to be taking any action, or making any statements, which could be interpreted as offering support for one political party or another. Normal day-to-day activities of the Council continue, of course, but council staff (officers) must not do anything that could be seen as trying to influence the way residents vote.

As elected Councillors, we are also covered by the purdah rules, which means that this month's report cannot include anything of a “political” nature. We are allowed to use our other communication channels (e.g. Twitter or Facebook) to express our views as individuals, but we may not imply that we are speaking on behalf of the District Council. After the election, we'll be able to write with more information about the local plan and other recently agreed initiatives in these pages.

Councillor Grants

We have both received a number of applications for the Councillor Grant scheme, which closes in early January. So far, we have made contributions for some outdoor fitness equipment in Ewelme, to the redevelopment project at Millstream Day Centre, to the Incredible Edibles project at Benson Library and to the Going Forward bus service. Our funds are starting to run low, but if you know of any community group which needs some help with a project, point them in the direction of www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants to read the rules on eligibility.

Free Parking in the lead-up to Christmas

Drivers in South Oxfordshire can benefit from free parking in district council car parks on certain days in December. This annual free parking tradition is designed to encourage people to shop locally for their Christmas presents. The free parking days allocated to each area are agreed with the individual town councils depending on which day would best suit local traders.

Free Christmas parking days also means people don't have to pay to park if they wish to catch up with friends and family in the pubs, cafés and restaurants during the festive period.

Drivers will be able to park without paying for a ticket in local car parks on the following days next month:

- Wallingford - Thursdays (5, 12, 19 December)
- Didcot – Mondays (9, 16, 23 December)
- Goring – Saturdays (7, 14, 21 December)
- Henley – Tuesdays (3, 10, 17 December)

On the above days there's no need to display a ticket. Parking is also free on a Sunday in many of the council-owned town centre car parks in the district, so please check the tariff boards in car parks for further details.



Some of you may have noticed the sizeable steel framework taking shape on the Cala development at Littleworth Road. This is the framework for the new Community Building being provided as part of the development and we have held meetings with Cala to agree the finishes for the building. It is planned that the building works should be completed around the Autumn of 2020.

We have also been in discussion with David Wilson Homes about the green space they plan to provide on the BEN3/4 site. We have asked them to amend their current landscape design to include a community orchard, allotment space and species-rich meadow habitat that will compliment the green spaces managed for nature elsewhere in the village. Discussions are ongoing but it looks promising that our aspirations will be met.

And talking about green spaces, this part of the plan is getting some attention at the moment whilst we work with both Cala and David Wilson Homes. We want all of the new green spaces to connect up, providing habitat that helps wildlife thrive and move around, but are also good places for people to enjoy.

Meanwhile the Transport Team have been investigating the provision of double yellow lines in the lane from the Waterfront Café to Preston Crowmarsh. This follows concerns

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UNIT 1 MOSES WINTER WAY

about emergency vehicles being unable to gain access. Discussions are continuing with OCC Highways.

Lastly, the Neighbourhood Plan Team would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.



**Berrick & Roke Christmas Fair
will be held on
Sunday December 8th 1pm - 4pm.**

This is a change from the usual Saturday event and will kick off with delicious lunches with mulled wine and mince pies to follow. There will be a variety of visiting stalls selling gifts as well as cakes, raffle, childrens activities and of course Father Christmas will be paying a visit. Everyone welcome to The Village hall in Berrick Salome near Benson. All in aid of St Helens church. For further details email manorfarms@gmail.com or call 01865891208



**Christmas Wishes
from
John Howell**



As regular readers will know I usually write a monthly newsletter for parish magazines. As Parliament has been dissolved for the General Election I am no longer in a position to do so.

However having worked with you all for the majority of this year I would like to send a personal thank you for all that you do in your communities week by week, and month by month. I know that at times our community work can be a thankless task but please be assured it is appreciated, especially by me.

As this note will appear in December magazines I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

Should I be in a position to work with you again in 2020 I look forward to it. If not then my sincere thanks for all that you have done in the time that we have worked together.

**With best wishes
John**

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BENSON MILLSTREAM CENTRE



Bringing Seniors Together



A Review of 2019

The Centre has gone from strength to strength this year with an increasing number of customers attending each day. Our Way Forward project opened new communication channels with the surgery, Age UK Oxfordshire and Dementia Oxfordshire resulting in people being referred who are really benefiting from our services.

Customers arrive earlier each day, stay later after lunch, and really enjoy our planned calendar of events. Our craft sessions, in particular, are very popular, helping keep the grey cells stimulated and encouraging participation.

Millstream's band of loyal volunteers has increased considerably, bringing with them new ideas and skills. We now have dedicated volunteers who look after our frailest members. We can always benefit from more volunteers, however, so if you would like to offer some help please get in touch (phone number below).

Our new manager, Donna, has brought fresh ideas and impetus to the Centre and our professional chef, Patrick, continues to provide excellent, nourishing lunches.

Our plans for extending to create more space for our increasing numbers are now at planning approval stage and we will be seeking capital grants in early 2020. We are also in the process of interviewing potential new Trustees, which will increase our resources as the Centre moves forward.

If you have a family member or a neighbour who you feel could benefit from our services, please give Donna a call on 01491 834889 or pop in to see her.

400 Club

The fourth 400 Club draw was held on Wednesday 16th October at the Millstream Centre. Again, we gave away £490 worth of prizes. The lucky winners were:

£30:

688 - Ian & Lyn Powell - Preston Crowmarsh;
912 - Peter Collins - Benson; 89 Denise Tilbury - Preston Crowmarsh; 521 Flower Family - Benson.

£40:

284 - Mr & Mrs Tappin - Benson; 405 - Linda & Geoff Stock - Benson; 238 - Iris Blake - Preston Crowmarsh.

£50:

372 Nicholas Walker - Benson; 692 - Sheila Loughney - Wallingford; 390 The Glyns - Berrick Salome.

£100:

1007 M Pearce - Headington.

Thank you again to all our supporters and helpers as the income from the draw is very valuable to us. The bumper Christmas Draw is on Wednesday 11th December and tickets, at just £1, will be available from mid-November so do buy some. Every little helps!

Geraldine Gault



Benson Patients' Panel

Primary Care Networks

There are a lot of changes going on in the NHS as a result of the Long Term Plan that has been devised by NHS England. As reported in October's Benson Bulletin this involves GPs adopting new arrangements at local surgery level whereby Benson, Wallingford and Goring/Woodcote surgeries will come together in a 'Primary Care Network' (PCN). The three surgeries will remain independent of each other, just as they are now, but will collaborate to provide a wider range of services at local level.

In planning these services PCNs will need to involve local community health and care services, including voluntary sector groups and patient representatives, in the design, planning and perhaps delivery of these services.

Every GP surgery in England is supposed to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG) like Benson Patients' Panel. PPGs were not asked at the outset what they think of the idea of PCNs, nor were we invited to help in planning and developing them.

Since 2013 PPGs in Oxfordshire have met together in locality forums set up by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and were able to share experiences and put forward our views to OCCG. OCCG has now disbanded these forums. Instead OCCG Chief Executive Lou Patten says "In line with the national Long Term Plan for the NHS, the patient voice at Locality

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Forum level now needs to be developed to be more inclusive of our populations and centred around Primary Care Networks. OCCG has asked Healthwatch Oxfordshire (see last month's Benson Bulletin) to help support this and set up the wider stakeholder network for the system". Despite our lack of involvement in this decision, we will work with Healthwatch Oxfordshire in the hope that the patient voice is heard loud and clear under the new arrangements.

Thanks to the very good relationship that has built up over the last six years between GPs and PPGs in South East Oxfordshire led by John Reid (Benson Patients' Panel chair), we have at least been kept informed about how our local PCNs are developing. It is possible that there will be lots of benefits from a well-functioning PCN but equally we need to know what the potential challenges are and what patients feel about them.

Benson Patients' Panel has decided to take the initiative. So by the time this edition of Benson Bulletin is published we will have met with the other two PPGs and the lead GPs in our network to discuss how we can work together and ensure that we get the best out of our PCN. We will let you know all about it in the February issue of the Bulletin.

Maggie Winters



Friends of Benson Library

By the time you read this, I hope those who attended will have had a good time at the Library Quiz. Our Quiz is an important part of the FOBL's fund raising and we are very grateful to everyone who helped on the night and those who gave raffle prizes so generously. If you want another fun way of helping the Library why not purchase a share in our 100 Club Lottery? Application Forms may be obtained from Benson Library, Derry's Den or from George Verdon at paddy@chezverdon.com

This year we are thrilled by the donation of a Christmas tree which will be planted at the front of the Library in the presence, on a date to be announced, of our Patron Lady Jay. We are also very grateful for the donation from Stuart Philips towards the tree's Christmas decoration.

And now the FOBL's focus turns to 2020. Libraries are important and the books they contain even more so. When I worked with

Caroline Kennedy in New York she told me that whenever she or her brother asked for a book their mother Jackie would always buy it for them. Jackie Kennedy believed that books were the most important part of anyone's growth and education.

But behind those books are their authors without whom no library would ever exist and we would have no stories or history to read. So the FOBL are hoping over the coming year and beyond, with the help of our ambassador the writer Rachel Edwards, to expand our Author's Talks. We are also actively looking for people to join us as new Trustees and help develop the scope of what we do and can achieve, and most importantly help us make sure that enough funds are raised to keep the Library going and to let it grow and expand.

One final note: the Library will be closing at 12.30pm on Christmas Eve and re-open on Thursday 2nd January at 2pm. The larger libraries are remaining open, except for the Bank Holidays, so Wallingford, Didcot and Henley will be available for urgent library needs. But if you want your Christmas reading now, make sure you have the book in your hands before Santa arrives.

Christopher Swann

'READ EASY'

Can you spare 1 hour a week to help an adult with reading difficulties? - some 400,000 people in England lie in this category.

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For more information please contact Mike (Read Easy coach) on 0779 678 5543 (Chalgrove) or Alice (Group Co-ordinator) on 07989 049 140. www.readeasy.org.uk

Benson Library Opening Hours

Monday	2-6pm
Tuesday	9-12.30pm 2-5pm
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Thursday	2-7pm
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Saturday	9.30-12.30pm

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An interesting and enjoyable year in the Trefoil world draws to an end.

We took part in the village Remembrance Parade and Sheila Brannigan laid our wreath.

We now look forward to our Christmas Lunch at Home Sweet Home on 5th December and in January our annual visit to the local panto put on by the Sinoden Players in Wallingford.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday, 16th January at 2.30 pm (please note earlier time for the winter months) when we will plan our activities for 2020.

Pandora Huntingford



In September, Benson's Guides and Brownies headed off to Foxlease, Girlguiding's activity centre in the New Forest, for a camping weekend of 'Fearless Fun'. Ruby Sawyer (age 7) shares her story:

"On Friday we got off the bus with our bags then we set up tents which I found really hard. Then we got dinner. It was delicious. We had ice cream for pudding – yum yum! After tea, it was dark so we went back to the tents. We got our pyjamas on and talked for a while using our torches as lights.

After breakfast on Saturday, we all went to the chill out zone for some fun activities. I really enjoyed the parachute game. We were given choices about what activities we wanted to do, we all chose carefully and made sure everyone got to do something they really wanted to do. At the craft area, I really liked making a hedgehog out of an old book, I still have it at home now.

Having had a yummy lunch, some of us took part in team building games, there was lots of riddles to decipher and lots of things that we had to figure out – this was lots of fun! Some of us went swimming (*Helen: others made*

rafts or tried fencing) and the pool was really warm. Later that evening, we all gathered for the campfire and sang lots of songs. That night, it rained really hard and it sounded really loud in the tent (*Helen: the leaders were woken by thunder and lightning which the girls slept through!*).

On Sunday we got up, packed our things and the tents away. After breakfast, we went "night walking" this meant we had to wear blindfolds and be guided by our friends. Afterwards, some of us went crate stacking, we had to wear harnesses and climb as high as we could, I found it hard to keep my balance. After our last yummy lunch, it was time to go home. I was sad to leave as we all had so much fun and enjoyed all the activities but I was looking forward to seeing my family. Thank you Sunny, Brown Owl, Helen, Rachel & Bald Eagle for taking us to Fearless Fun, I had an amazing time!"

All the Brownies and Guides and the leaders had a brilliant time, and we are already planning next year's residential! We would like to thank Benson Parish Council for their grant which helped towards this event.

We have Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Benson, and whilst we have 'Leaders in charge' for each unit, we are running with the bare minimum of assistant leaders and helpers. We are looking for additional regular volunteers for each unit. 'Regular' does not necessarily mean every week - It could mean every other week, once a month, or even being someone that can be called on as cover. You don't need to have any previous experience or have a daughter in one of our units. Please get in touch with Vicki Jarvis (girlguidingbenson@gmail.com or 01491 833928) if you are interested in getting involved.

Helen Stevenson
1st Benson Guide leader

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St Birinus



*Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,
There He bath made Himself to His intent
Weak enough, now into the world to come;
But O, for thee, for Him, bath the inn no room?*

Early in November, three regular members of the consort - Sophie, Anastasia and Dominic Bevan – joined Sam Oran and Howard Thompson for a charity concert of Opera and Fizz at St Mary's Church Haddenham.

The concert was in aid of the Syrian Family Project. The project is essentially an endeavour of the whole village to bring a single refugee family from Syria to start afresh in Haddenham. The resettlement comes via the UK government and UN working together. This was the second concert as part of a fundraising project to ensure everything is in place once the family arrives. The singers performed without any fees.

The concert itself included the spine tingling trio *Soave sia il vento* from "Cosi fan tutte" and the equally touching finale from the "Marriage of Figaro". Sam gave a spirited rendition of Figaro's famous aria from Rossini's "Barber of Seville" whilst Dominic and Howard gave us a spirited account of the tenor/baritone duet from the "Pearl Fishers" by Bizet. Sophie gently and powerfully sang that most haunting song *Le Spectre de la rose* from the Berlioz song cycle "Nuits d'Eté". They finished with the Brindisi from "La Traviata" by Verdi. Although a dank, cold November night, the church was packed. They hoped to raise about £2000.00.

(Personally, I was so inspired by the cause I wondered why we might not try and do something similar in Benson?)

Advent begins on 1st December. It is a month that not only includes Christmas and several major feasts but our patronal feast of St Birinus. Birinus is known as the Apostle of the West Saxons and he is honoured much

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around here – his shrine originally was in Dorchester Abbey; his name in Anglo Saxon was Berin, hence Berinsfield. His feast will be kept on 3rd December. Music will include a mass setting by Palestrina. Mozart's Mass in D, K.194 will feature at Midnight Mass and at Mass of Christmas Day. Composed at Salzburg, this was the first of Mozart's masses to be published after his death in 1794. Then Sebastiano's *Missa Salve Sancta Parens* will feature at Mass on 1st January.

The composer for December is Phillippe de Monte and for January, Philippe Rogier. The latter is an example of how history's accidents change perceptions - although highly regarded in his lifetime and a principal composer of the chapel of Philip II, he wrote both sacred and secular music, however, most of his considerable musical output was lost in 1755 during the Lisbon earthquake when fire destroyed the vast Library of John IV. Rogier's surviving works are all very much of the mood music of the Hapsburg chapel in Flanders which had such influence over the English composers Tallis, Byrd and Parsons. Indeed, the December composer Philippe de Monte spent some time in England under Mary I. He wrote music for the chapel of Philip and Mary and some of his music may have been used at the marriage of the Queen and King in Winchester in July 1554. Later he served the Regent in the Netherlands and also as kapellmeister to Maximilian II, whose wife you may recall from last month was herself patron to Tomas Luis de Victoria.

De Monte was also a composer of sacred and secular music and composed settings for 1100 madrigals and these were published from 1554 with personal notes and dedications to his various patrons. This idea was later taken up in Elizabethan England where collections of madrigals or poems are dedicated to patrons. In December we will have three of his masses: *Missa ad te levavi*; *Missa Ultimi miei sospiri*; *Missa Benedicta es: Miss acara la vita*. There will be motets by Asola; Guerrero; Baccusi; Victoria and Wert. Christmas day will feature a Haydn Mass and Propers from the Gradualia of William Byrd. The Phillippe Rogier, *Missa inclita stirps Jesse* will feature for Epiphany on Sunday 5th January.

Please come and hear the consort sing and we hope by January we will have a Music List for the Music Pilgrimages to our local villages. Please remember you can help by becoming a friend of the Davey Consort. at www.thedaveyconsort.co.uk.



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Better to leave you with the great John Donne who captures the still small wonders that inform this special time of year, wishing you the blessings of the season of goodwill and a New Year that brings, peace, happiness and joy in equal measure.

*Yet lay Him in this stall, and from the Orient,
Stars and wise men will travel to prevent
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.
Seest thou, my soul, with thy faith's eyes, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,
That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.
(John Donne – The Nativity)*

John Murphy



St Helen's Benson From the Rector

Quite often when I lead children's groups in church I try and teach through the medium of a recipe. It's particularly fun to do at this time of year, because it means I can pull out my old favourite church cake recipe, 'A Birthday Cake for Jesus'. It goes something like this:

1. Cream together 50 grams of soft butter, and 4 tbsp dark sugar. (The whiteness of the butter reminds us of the PURITY of the new born Christ-child, and the sugar reminds us of the SWEETNESS he brings to our lives.)

2. Beat in 1 egg. (The egg reminds us that the Christ-child came to bring us NEW LIFE at Easter, and as we beat it we remember that Christ was stricken for our transgressions.)

3. Fold in 4 tbsp of flour. (Flour reminds us that Jesus came to be for us the BREAD OF LIFE, the one in whom all our hungers are satisfied.)

4. Mix in ¼ tsp each of ground cinnamon, allspice, and nutmeg. (The spices, which come from the East, remind us of the gifts that the wise men from the East brought to the infant Jesus at Epiphany: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH.)

5. Stir through a pinch of salt. (The salt reminds us of the TEARS OF SORROW

www.bensonbulletin.com

Jesus wept over his friend Lazarus at his death, and the tears Jesus weeps over us at our departing, too.)

6. Fold in 200g mixed fruit. (Fruit reminds us that Jesus' death bore the fruit of RESURRECTION, and won for us the right to bear the same fruit.)

7. Mix in ½ tbsp of rum. (The liquor reminds us that after he ascended to heaven, the Risen Jesus sent us the gift of his HOLY SPIRIT that we might live his risen life.)

8. Bake. (The heat of the oven reminds us that there will be suffering in this life; but the finished cake at the end of it reminds us that at the end of our suffering we will have been transformed into something fragrant for Christ.)

9. Decorate with white icing. (The icing reminds us that when we are raised with Christ we will put on WHITE ROBES as we praise God in heaven for all eternity.)

I suspect many others in the village will have their own favourite Christmas recipes – but this is one of mine! Whatever you find yourself cooking up this winter, Fr Stephen and I pray that you will have a very happy Christmas, and that you may know the peace and joy of the Christ-child in your home.

Please note that there will be no services in Benson or Ewelme on Sunday, 29th December. That day we will all be joining with the congregation at St Peter's, Easington, for their Service of Carols by Candlelight at 4pm.

Fr Patrick

News & Diary Dates Available on 'A Church Near You' website:
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rector@sthelensbenson.org.uk 01491 838 535
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**Sunday Services
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10.00 Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
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www.sthelensbenson.org.uk

Ewelme:

11.15 Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
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Sun 9.30am (Berinsfield Church)
11.00am Solemn Mass

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joss@bennet.org
www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Services at 10.30am & 6.30pm

Lunch on Tuesdays 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Friendship Group alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm
'Tots Time' Wednesday 9.30am - 11.00am
Boys & Girls Brigade Wednesday evenings
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Wallingford Baptist Church

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pastorsimonwbc@ymail.com
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Sunday Services at 10.30am & 5.00pm

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2nd Sunday - Holy Communion (BCP)
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The Bensington Society

*The yule cake dotted thick, wi plumbs
Is on each supper table found
And cats look up for falling crumbs
Which greedy children litter round
And buswives sage, stuffed seasond chine
Long hung in chimney nook to drye
And boiling eldern berry wine
To drink the christmas eves 'good bye'
(Anne Bronte)*

The Victorians rebranded Christmas so successfully that it is easy to forget there ever was any other way of celebrating the festival. Their stamp is on our Christmas cards where Christmases are forever white; sparkling steepled churches with ruddy faced choristers; merry gentlemen carolling their glad tidings. A snowy world of wrens and robins, ivy, fir trees and holly berries and ice skaters...

Ideal Victorian tables groaned with turkeys; capons; geese; ducks and pheasants; pork pies; pickles and smoked hams and seasoned chine; plum puddings; sherry trifles; Turkish delight; boxes of dates and boxes of chocolates; tins of biscuits and tins of toffees – oranges, and apples and the obligatory bowl of nuts with its nut-cracker - the dreaded nutcracker so ill-suited for its supposed purpose. This was the paraphernalia of the Victorians season of twelve days of feasting.

Even in its time it was some distance from the bleak mid-winters of the bitterly divided Palestine of the Roman occupation. Its emphasis on plenty was further yet from the comfortless search of Bethlehem by Joseph and Mary for somewhere safe and secure to have their child; in desperation making do sharing a bare stable with its domestic animals; after the child is born placing him in his make-shift manger-crib. Their world as racked by poverty and displacement as ours today.

Our times own their own paraphernalia: office parties; the great expectations no presents can truly fulfil; the sales that now start before a single present is opened; and an iridescence of Christmas lights that remakes our streetscapes for a few weeks. As I write the shops in the village have Christmas windows already and many of our houses will shortly be bedecked with lights outside and inside; reindeer; stars; and many Santas. I like this festival of lights and hereabouts in all the villages there is

comfort and joy that the dark winding paths on our darkest nights are alight and alive in defiance at the lightless days of winter.

Another part of Village Christmas is the Bensington Society Christmas Party. It will take place on Friday 13th December at the Benson Village Hall. We will welcome friends and visitors to join the fun and there will be plenty of good cheer on offer from the bar and the supper price remains at £5 but includes a glass of mulled wine. There is always a wonderful raffle with a cornucopia of prizes which you never know may successfully resolve some present Christmas present conundrum or other pressing Christmas need. Our entertainment will come from James Mitchell and Oliver James who are performing their Flanagan and Allen tribute act in the form of a sing-along.

With Christmas in view please remember the various books on Village past and present that you can obtain via the Bensington Society Web site: www.bensington-society.com. An annual society membership would make a great present too!

The Web Page will shortly be updated with the full program of talks and outings for next year. The talks will include Karl Bird - Misadventures in Movie Locations on 31st January 2020; Nicholas Brazil - Literary and Artistic footprints in the Thames Valley - on 28th February; and Prof Tony Claydon - William III: the Making of Modern Britain – on 27th March 2020.

Please note the Society AGM will be on 27th February although memberships will be renewed at the January meeting as usual. As the AGM is later the Annual Report will not go out to members until early February.

This year marks my fifth Christmas in the village. I'm still very much a newcomer here but I've always felt part of this community. In my short time here, there have been many changes and with the housing developments proceeding apace there are many changes to come. At the heart of our community are schools, shops, pubs, Marina, library, churches, GP surgery, dentist, vets and the many village clubs and societies, all bound together in the monthly bulletin. Their part in the life of Benson makes this village a special place. This is made visible particularly on our Remembrance Day ceremonies but also in the pre-Christmas carolling and concerts.

For all we seem further than ever from those origins of Christmas, year on year we are



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reminded of the importance of community and of community endeavours in this village we are lucky enough to call home.

Christmas enables us to return to the flame of child-like wonder we hold in our hearts. It is that place that links us to those events in Palestine where startled shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks at night when a tumult of angels from another world brought tidings of great joy and good will to all people and a mysterious star appeared in the night sky pointing the way to a caravan of Kings from Persian lands afar.

Each Christmas we are permitted to unlock the magic of our childhoods and so return afresh to the central message of this season: peace on earth and goodwill to all. On behalf of the Bensington Society I wish you the Christmas of your dreams.

*Around the glowing hearth at night
The harmless laugh and winter tale
Goes round while parting friends delight
To toast each other o'er their ale
The cotter off in quiet zeal
Will musing o'er his bible lean
While in the dark the lovers steal
To kiss and toy behind the screen.*

And may we all be equal to the challenges that together we face in the New Year.

John Murphy

Benson Nature Group Caring for Benson's green spaces

Big Benson Tree Plant at Warwick Spinney

Although the talk scheduled for November had to be postponed till some time next year, there was no rest for Benson Nature Group. Plans were well advanced for the Big Benson Tree Plant at Warwick Spinney on Sunday 10th November. The BNG publicity machine had gone into full swing with posters in strategic locations throughout the village, postings on social media and informal communications via the village grapevine. Trees and mulch were ordered and the planting area marked out. Arrangements were made for first aid and a risk assessment was carried out. And, most importantly, tea and cakes were organised for participants.

Despite a miserable lead-up in the preceding days, the weather turned up trumps – soaking wet on the previous day to soften the ground

and a glorious, sunny and mild winter day for the planting.

Improvements to Warwick Spinney, a community green space owned by Benson Community Association and managed by BNG, are being funded by a grant from a local charity, The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE). The Woodland Trust also provided some trees as part of their national Big Climate Fight Back Campaign where one million people have pledged to plant a tree.

The activity started with a briefing from Edal McGurk on the background to the project, its context within the parish nature strategy, and the health and safety “dos” and “don'ts”. This was followed by a demonstration by Tom Stevenson on how to plant a sapling – use a spade to slice a hole in the ground; place the tree in it; heel it in; put a supporting cane next to it; wrap a plastic sleeve around sapling and cane to prevent rabbit damage and finally spread some mulch around it. In all, 300 trees of 10 different native varieties (eg Rowan, Oak, Maple, Buckthorn, Malus) together with 500 English bluebells were planted in double quick time due to the excellent turnout.

In total, around 80 volunteers, including 20 children, took part in what was universally acclaimed to be a very enjoyable and successful community event. And the tea and delicious home-made cakes went down a treat at the end of the hard work.

Our special thanks to two new members of the BNG Project Team, Chris Hartshorne for his creative posters advertising the event and to Fiona Brown for organising the catering. Also, to Imogen Parker for the risk assessment, Helen Stevenson for acting as first aider and Jon Fowler for the signage and photos. And as ever, a big thank you to Tom for all the practical work in getting the site ready as well as ensuring the trees arrived on time and to Edal for her tireless planning to make sure it all went right on the night.

With BNG increasing its commitments to manage our green spaces, more volunteers are needed, particularly to help with the practical work. If you enjoyed the Big Benson Tree Plant, whether you have lots or only a little spare time, please let Tom (Thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com) know if you would like to volunteer for similar future activities. We'd love to see you, and it will help us to plan resource for our future commitments.

Val Siddiqui

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Benson WI met in October for our normal monthly meeting and, as the nights draw in, it was lovely to see the majority of our members present. Reports were received from those who had attended various recent events including the Oxon Federation WI's Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Didcot, a Falls Prevention Workshop in Benson and OFWI Speakers Selection Day in Eynsham. Some of our members had recently enjoyed a performance of "Grease" in Oxford and were looking forward to a streaming of the Downton Abbey film in October and lunch with a walk at Basildon Park in December.

During our meeting, we received a talk from Graham Kirby about his family collection of Miniature Hats. The collection of about 460+ were bought mainly for his late mother as gifts from junk shops, fairs or as holiday souvenirs. There were examples of hats made from Irish Bog Wood, Delph, coal and metal and came in various shapes and sizes. Examples included one from the Franco-British Exhibition of 1908, one in the shape of a WRNS hat and one shaped as a WWI dispatch rider. Graham's delivery made the evening very enjoyable and he and his wife, Glen, were warmly thanked with tea and cake during our usual break for refreshments.

On the following evening, 6 of our members attended a very sociable 'Local Group Meeting' evening hosted by Clifton Hampden WI where the speaker was Caroline Collins who talked about her work with Samsung involving the devising of the language used by talking robots. The Presidents from other WIs gave a brief update of their activities and WI members were able to socialise over a lovely supper.

During October the Oxfordshire Federation of WIs held a very well attended Mental Health Summit in our Parish Hall which included speakers from MIND, RESTORE and Time to Change. In February, the OFWI will use the hall again for a talk by Fay Pendall to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. Her Oxfordshire veteran

father, Bill, has been immortalized with two statues at Arramanches.

Coming up in December, Benson WI will be looking forward to entertainment and a sing-a-long with 'The Close Knit Band' who live locally and have performed as individuals at Bunkfest and as a group at many local venues. This will round off our year very well before returning to the start of our 94th year on January 15th with a social evening get together. On behalf of our members, can I please wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020. Please contact us on bensonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk if you would like to visit us.

Sue Brown



Our November meeting didn't turn out quite as planned, as two of the three gardening experts we had invited didn't unfortunately manage to reach us in time. We by no means felt short-changed, though, as Ray Broughton rose to the occasion with commendable sangfroid and, as a 'panel of one', fielded a wide range of horticultural questions and knotty problems with his usual expertise and humour.

We look forward to seeing another familiar face on 5th December, and to learning from Ivone Delgado how to use the materials our gardens have to offer at this time of year to create a Christmas wreath and table decoration.

Before we know it, Christmas will be behind us, and at our first meeting for 2020, on 9th January, father and daughter David and Hanna Cottrell, from Winterbrook Garden Nurseries at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, will be telling us a little of its history and, more importantly for the plantaholics amongst us, what their plans are for the future. Then, on 6th February, our speaker will be Jim McDonald from the National Sweet Pea Society.

We have a number of other treats in store over the course of the year, and on 5th March will be welcoming BBC Gardeners' World and ITV's Love Your Garden presenter Frances Tophill. So save the date!

Our meetings are all held in the Parish Hall, starting at 7.45 pm. If you're new to the village, or just wondering what we are all about, why not come along as a visitor? We would love to see you. Or email bensongardeningclub@gmail.com to find out more.

Linda Parkin



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From Small Village To Town

As a person who has lived my life in Benson, I was delighted with Peter Clarke's article in the October edition he called "From village to Town". In particular the two photos he showed sparked off some memories.



As a child I lived at No. 3 High Street, just opposite College Farm. Not a case of just a lone lady on a bike, I can remember ducks, geese and even turkeys waddling out on to the High Street. I don't remember any of them being run over by traffic! We always had goose for Christmas which we got from Jack Franklin at the farm.

Now that second photo:



I remember the Lock Keeper doing his trips across the Thames in his green flat-bottomed punt. Where he docked this side of the water there was a weeping willow tree with a large brass bell hanging from a branch. You would ring the bell if you wanted him to come over to collect you. I think the return fare was an old "Thrupenny Bit". I can't work out what that is in modern money.

As to Winch Meadow, yes Peter is right. It was a wildlife paradise. The birdlife was fantastic, along with newts, frogs, snakes and butterflies. We used to have nature visits with our Cubs and Scout teachers. I can't remember their names.

The fishing there was also wonderful. My Uncle Cyril was a very keen fisherman, and he often took me with him. I can remember

him catching very large carp and also big eels, which were plentiful then. As Peter said, it was a wildlife paradise that should never have been built on.

Ken Branigan



**Benson
Players**

Family Entertainment coming to Benson!

Benson Players have a tradition of hosting travelling theatre groups as well as putting on their own productions.

On Saturday 14th December, we welcome Folksy who will be performing a musical adaptation of the "Elves and the Shoemaker" at 2pm in Benson Parish Hall. Filled with Folksy's touch of wonderful live music, puppetry and downright silliness, this wonderful family musical will have the whole family entertained!

This show is suitable for all ages and tickets, priced at only £8, are available from Derry's Den, in Benson High Street, or online from www.folksytheatre.co.uk

Hilary Binks



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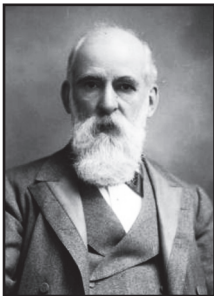
**Preston Crowmarsh's
Most Famous Author?**



John Kilian Houston Brunner

How many readers will have heard of a famous novelist and poet born in Preston Crowmarsh?

In his day, John Kilian Houston Brunner was famous for his Sci-Fi novels, winning the prestigious Hugo prize in 1969 for "Stand on Zanzibar". In this novel on overpopulation, Brunner predicted, amongst other things, computer viruses, generic engineering and Viagra. He was born in 1934 and was the son of Anthony & Amy Felicity Brunner, who lived in the Old Mill House in the 1930's. They were well known locally, with Mrs Brunner organising annual tennis tournaments on their own court in 1934 & 1935. They were also a celebrity couple – Anthony being a well known racing driver and his wife a famous ex-model. A cousin of Anthony's – Sir Felix Brunner – lived at Grey's Court in Henley, whilst his brother Patrick O'Brian Brunner lived in Dorchester



However, the Brunner family were already famous – or infamous – for other reasons. Anthony was the grandson of **Sir John T Brunner**, the founder of Brunner Mund & Co – one of the world's largest chemical companies.

Anthony's father Roscoe Brunner inherited the company, but when the Government of the day encouraged the four major British chemical companies to combine into the giant

ICI in December 1926, Roscoe Brunner was to be side lined and not given a place on the Board of Directors.

The Brunner family were very well connected with Royalty, not only with the Palace, but also with his sister married to the Prince of Liechtenstein; there were connections politically also, with two MPs in the family. Hence quite a political storm blew up over Roscoe's exclusion from ICI. However on 3rd November 1926 both Roscoe Brunner and his wife Ethel were found dead from gunshot wounds.



Roscoe & Ethel Brunner

The police reported to the Coroner that Roscoe Brunner had shot his wife and then committed suicide whilst suffering from depression. The press had a field day, with heavy hints in the papers of foul play by persons unknown and of an inept police investigation that was manipulated in some way. The storm was not helped by the Government locking away all the relevant papers under the 100 year rule, along with other State & Royal papers.

Anthony & Amy Felicity Brunner along with their children appear to have left Preston Crowmarsh around 1938, to take over the Manor House in Towersey near Thame. John Kilian Brunner's novels became less popular in the 1970's and before his death, most of his books had fallen out of print. Brunner accused publishers of a conspiracy against him. But he was known to be difficult to deal with (his wife Marjorie Brunner had handled his publishing relations before she died).

He died of a heart attack in Glasgow on 25 August 1995, while attending the World Science Fiction Convention.

Dave Rushton



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Benson Striders had a hectic Autumn and Summer. Our second Couch to 5K Course of the year started in early October with Lindsey (supported by her trustee team of helpers) motivating another cohort of new runners to achieve amazing things. The course takes around 9-10 weeks and each week includes a formal Saturday morning session mentored by Lindsey (who is brilliant!), an optional Wednesday evening session, and the App to provide guidance on other activities – and, if previous courses are anything to go by, a really

active and supportive WhatsApp Group.

Her Spring/Summer Couch to 5K was astoundingly successful and has generated a really capable, committed, and positive group of runners – it has been great to have you all in the Club! Well done Lindsey for mentoring you all so well.

We have just over 100 members of all abilities and aspirations from around Benson, Ewelme, Shillingford, Wallingford...in fact from all our local area. Our approach continues to be being as inclusive as possible with a focus on beginners, people returning to running (in fact returning to sport in general) and of course supporting developing runners who like company while they are out and about.

The main running events of the week are the Saturday morning social running session which begins at 08.15 at Benson Parish Hall and the Wednesday speed/hilly session. Each starts with a gentle warm up (and a chance to meet the runners); Saturdays consist of Run Leader led runs ranging from 5K, 7K, 10K (usually scenic/slower group plus quicker/also scenic group) and usually something a bit longer...Wednesday evenings require a head torch and dayglo top for night-time speed work around the village.

Continued overleaf...



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Gary Flux the owner of the Shepherds Hut and his team would like to welcome guests old and new to the pub over the festive period.

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Christmas bookings now being taken and we're open Christmas Day for drinks and food.

For New Years Eve we have the ever popular Bankers Band booked to see us through to midnight along other entertainment. This is free entry and all are welcome.

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Being a Benson Strider is not about how far or fast you run, it about getting your shorts, T-shirt and trainers on and getting out and running even when it is cold, wet and muddy! For some inspiration opposite is a picture of our last group of Couch to 5K graduates. If you are interested, have a look at www.bensonstriders.com and then get in touch at info@bensonstriders.com

Donal McGurk



We had a most interesting workshop in October with Harwell based artist, Carolyn Tyrer, who has been to us before. Carolyn has her own very individual style but she is also a good tutor. Our subject was animals and, using the whiteboard in the Watercress Centre (which turned out to be a godsend) she showed us how she built up the forms of each animal using very simple shapes – circles, squares, oblongs and triangles. Some great work was produced and we had a fun afternoon.

We welcomed Robert Kidner, our favourite amateur art historian from the Wallingford Art Group back on 11 November for a fascinating talk on Art and the Landscape. This was of particular interest as the majority of us do like to paint views. Robert took us through the various art movements – Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism and Surrealism featuring various artists who represented each era. John Constable’s famous painting of Flatford Mill and Turner’s Norman Castle at Sunrise, represented the Romantic period, while Jean Francois Millet’s “The Gleaners” was an example of the Realism period. Van Gogh’s wonderful ‘Starry Night’, Monet’s ‘Sunrise’ and Sisley’s delightful rural landscapes were all painted in an impressionistic style. Dali was, of course, the main representative of the surrealist period. Paul Nash, early 20th century, used to paint Wittenham Clumps when he came to Brightwell cum Sotwell to stay with his uncle. After he was sent home injured from the war and his sketches were discovered, he was sent back out as a war artist to record the scenes of devastation during World War 1.

We have some exciting projects coming up: all twelve pieces of our composite painting, David Hockney’s Spring Tunnel, have been

Continued overleaf....

The **BENSON CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN**

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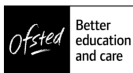
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allocated to individual artists who will paint an A3 section in whichever medium they prefer. We will then put them all together for display in Ewelme Store for the month of April (hopefully!) which gives us all plenty of time to plan out our section.

Instead of a Christmas get together this year we have decided to arrange a visit to the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham where we will have a guided talk and walk around the sites in the village where Spencer painted followed by lunch at the Ferry.

We are a friendly group of 'leisure' painters who meet once or twice a month in the Watercress Centre to paint together or for talks or demonstrations.

Trisha Scott
For the Watercress Painters (8347834 or
trisha.watercress@hotmail.co.uk)



Henley and District
Stamp Club

Tired of sitting watching the TV? Want a new hobby for 2020? Come and see what you could do if you collected postcards, old letters or stamps. You will be surprised at the interesting subjects that are included and the research you can do. Shared with others it is a very enjoyable, interesting, pastime and a good evening out with like-minded friendly people. Why not give try it? See you at Bix.

December 11 – Chairman's evening
 January 8 – An evening of Postcards – up to 9 x A4 or 4 X A3 pages
 January 22 – The Antipodes – member's imaginative displays, up to 9 x A4 or 4 x A3 pages
 March 11 – date for your diary out increasingly popular Auction – open to visitors

If you are interested in any of these subjects, but not necessarily into 'Stamps' you are welcome to visit us. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at Bix Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 01491 681739 or on our website: - www.henleyphilatellic.org.uk

Anne Stammers



Watlington & South
Oxfordshire
Chess Club



Local chess club makes a good start

A local appeal for all interested in playing chess has had a solid start! Now the new club – Watlington and South Oxfordshire – is securely based and playing in the West Room in Old School Place, every Thursday from 7.30 pm.

Organiser Tim Horton says 'We've members who have not played since school, some who have played the odd game on the internet and accompanied young people who want to test their brain cells in a real, friendly and supportive place!

'We are the only club for 10 miles registered with the English Chess Federation We ask all of who might have some interest in the ancient game and who live in any part of South Oxfordshire area – and perhaps over in Buckinghamshire too – to try the new venue. We can guarantee a warm welcome and cups of tea and coffee – all for a small weekly cost.'

Contact Tim: timhorton1664@gmail.com



SINODUN
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It will soon be Pantomime season in Wallingford and production is underway!

Sinodun Players present Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood - a rollicking good tale of derring-do in the Forest of Sherwood.

A much loved English legend, combined with traditional pantomime fun. Can Robin and his Merry Men thwart the plans of the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham? Of course he can. But you'll have to come along to see how Maid Marian and the Babes are saved.

January 17th to February 1st 2020 at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford. Tickets: Box office 01491 825000 or www.cornexchange.org.uk

Benson Aviation Group

A social group for anyone with a background or interest in aviation to share stories and memories.

The first Tuesday each month from 2-3.30pm at Millstream Day Centre. £2.50.

Contact Kate for more information:

katehart@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

07827 235403.

Corn Exchange in December



CINEMA

Regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated.

Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further updates on screenings. **NB:** The Corn Exchange will be closed from Sunday 22nd December until the pantomime starts on Friday 17th January.

1st	Brittany runs a Marathon (15)
4th	Midway (12A)
6th	Judy (12A)
8th	Home (12A)
9th	Sorry We Missed You (15)
12th	The Good Liar (15)
13th	The Good Liar (15)
14th 2:30pm	Addams Family (PG)
14th	The Good Liar (15)
15th 2:30pm	The Good Liar (15)
15th	Ford vs Ferrari: Le Mans '66
16th	Ford vs Ferrari: Le Mans '66
18th	Non-Fiction (15)
19th	The Aeronauts(PG)
20th 2:30pm	Frozen (PG)
20th	The Aeronauts(PG)
21st 2:30pm	Frozen (PG)
21st	The Aeronauts(PG)

LIVE SHOWS

Tuesday, 3rd December, 7:30pm
Punchbowl with Cholsey Silver Band
 Tickets £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)
 Get into the real spirit of Christmas with a lighthearted look at love and marriage with words and music by the Sinodun Players and Encore, the youth wing. Followed in the second half with the Cholsey Silver Band.

LIVE SCREENINGS

7th December, 5:00pm **Tosca**, a live screening from La Scala, Milan in a new production. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

10th December, 7:15pm **Coppelia**, a live screening of the Royal Ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

11th December 7pm NT Live screening of **Present Laughter** with Andrew Scott. Tickets £12.50 (adults), £10 (seniors and under 18s)

17th December, 7:15pm **Nutcracker**, a

recording of the Royal Ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

COMING SOON

17th January to 1st February 2020 **Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood** by Alan Frayn Wallingford's annual pantomime performed by the Sinodun Players.

PUBLIC BOOKING OPENS AT 10AM ON FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER.

21st February **Jeeves and Wooster**. A production by Chipping Norton Theatre.

10th March until 14th March **Guys and Dolls**. A joint production by Crescendo and the Corn Exchange.

PUBLIC BOOKING OPENS ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER

And Finally:

Happy Anniversary to one of the BB's regular Advertisers



Family-run business
Wheeler's Electrical Contractors
 based in Cholsey,

are celebrating their 80th anniversary this year. Originally founded by Charles (Charlie) Wheeler at the onset of World War II in 1939, the business has now grown to employ 12 people in the local area.

In the 1960s Wheeler's was bought by Mr DW Chandler, the father-in-law of current Managing Director and owner Kevin Howells. Today the business provides services to clients in the domestic, agriculture, education and commercial sectors across Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Having seen a lot of change over the years, the company has evolved and developed by investing in their people and their skills. Their latest initiative has been to train their staff on the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

Kevin Howells, Managing Director said: "We are so proud to have reached this milestone and believe that the reason for our success is our focus on quality. All our electricians are directly employed which means we can ensure a consistently high-level of service to our loyal customers."

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QUICK SALE. A VHS HIFI Video cassette Recorder [Sharp DV NC 65] almost unused. Buyer collects. Preston Crowmarsh 07837 249949.

email your letters/articles to
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Benson Parish Hall

Benson Library Opening Hours

Monday	2-6pm
Tuesday	9-12.30pm 2-5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	2-7pm
Friday	9-12.30pm 2-5pm
Saturday	9.30-12.30pm

Benson Outreach Post Office Benson Parish Hall Pavilion Opening Hours:

Tuesday 9.30 - 12.30 & 13.00 - 16.00
Wednesday & Thursday 9.30 - 12.30

Benson Parish Hall

Benson Parish Office: 01491 825038

Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri

0930 am to 1230 pm

Short Mat Bowls Mon 1.30-3.34pm/Wed 7-9.15pm

Badminton Mon 8-10pm

Bingo Tues 7-9pm

Floodlit Tennis Thurs 7.00pm

TO HIRE

BENSON PARISH or YOUTH HALL

TEL/FAX 01491 825038

Benson Youth Hall

Table Tennis (Over 60s "Go Active") Weds 2-3pm

Table Tennis Fri 8 - 10pm

About Benson Bulletin

bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk

Est. 1994

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BB's Deadlines

Copy: 12th of month previous

Advertising: 12th of month previous

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December

- 1 Watercress Guided walk 10.30am at the Centre.
- 1 Advent Carol Service. St Helen's Church, 4pm.
- 1 Handel's Messiah. St Mary's, Ewelme, 6.30pm.
- 4 Folksy: The Elves & the Shoemaker, Parish Hall 2pm £8 www.folksytheatre.co.uk
- 4 Wallingford U3A Christmas Party Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm.
- 5 Benson Garden Club. 'How to create Christmas decorations' Benson Parish Hall. 7.45 pm.
- 5 Benson Trefoil Guild annual Christmas Lunch at Home Sweet Home.
- 6 Carers' Coffee Morning (free) Benson Library between 10.30 and 12 noon All Welcome.
- 7 Watercress work morning 9.30 to 12.30.
- 7 SOFO Museum 3935 Glyn Dewis Portrait Project Workshop 11am – 2.00 pm www.sofo.org.uk
- 8 Christingle Service. St Helen's Church, 4pm.
- 10 Benson Evergreens Christmas Lunch.
- 11 Henley & District Philatelic Society Chairman's Evening Bix Village Hall 7.45.
- 13 Bensington Society Village Hall 7.00pm: Christmas Meeting Flanagan and Allen sing-a-long.
- 15 Benson Antiques and Collectors fair 9.00am - 4.00pm Parish Hall.
- 17 Carols in the Cloister. The Cloisters, Ewelme, 6pm.
- 21 Christmas Messy Craft Church. St Mary's, Ewelme. 10am.
- 24 Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity. St Mary's, Ewelme. 11am.
- 24 Journey to the Manger. Meet at the Recreation Ground, Ewelme. 12 noon.
- 24 Crib Service. Come dressed as a Nativity character! St Helen's Church. 3pm.
- 24 Community Carol Concert with Roke & Benson Brass Band. St Helen's Church. 5pm.
- 24 Mid-night Mass. St Helen's Church. 10pm.
- 24 Mid-night Mass. St Mary's, Ewelme. 11.30pm.
- 25 Christmas Day Family Eucharist. St Helen's Church. 10am.
- 25 Christmas Day Family Communion. St Mary's, Ewelme, 11.15am.
- 29 Carols by Candlelight. St Peter's, Easington. 4pm. No church services in Benson or Ewelme.

January 2020

- 2 Revival - New Year Sale.
- 3 Carers' Coffee Morning (free) Benson Library between 10.30 and 12 noon All Welcome.
- 5 4 O'Clock Church. Canons' Room, Benson, 4pm.
- 8 Henley & District Philatelic Soc An evening of Postcards Bix Village Hall 7.45.
- 8 Wallingford U3A Muriel Pilkington "The Mitfords in the Cotswolds" Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm.
- 9 Benson Garden Cl. Talk David & Hanna Cottrell/Winterbrook Garden Nurseries. Parish Hall, 7.45.
- 22 Henley & District Philatelic Soc The Antipodes—member's displays Bix Village Hall 7.45.

February

- 6 Benson Garden Club. Talk by Jim McDonald of the National Sweet Pea Society. Parish Hall, 7.45 pm
- 7 Carers' Coffee Morning (free) Benson Library between 10.30 and 12 noon All Welcome

Entry into Benson Bulletin Diary is free - one line only (maximum 85 characters) - we welcome all meeting dates from local clubs and societies and any other event.



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