

THE BENSON BULLETIN



© Jane Farquharson - "Snow On The Sinodun Hills"

THIS MONTH

- Supreme Justice?
- Benson Nature Group
- On The Plot
- Benson On Thames
- Church and Village
- Benson Garden Club
- Mill Stream Surgery
- Council Updates

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EDITORIAL

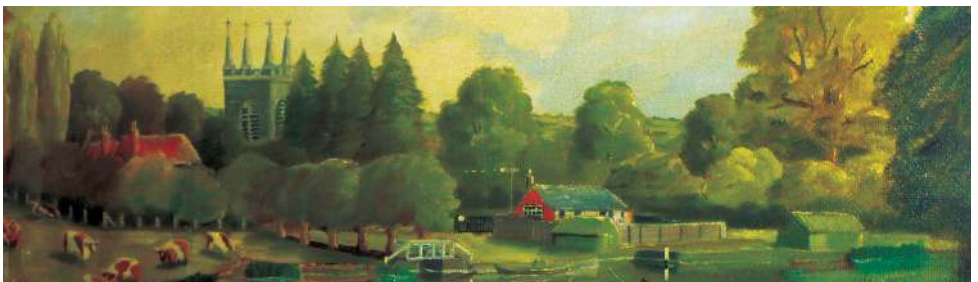
One of the few benefits of lock down has been having more time to read, including the two volume, thousand page, “Journals of Kenneth Rose” (1944 to 2014) – recommended to me by a friend. Rose wrote the ‘Albany’ column for the Daily Telegraph for many years and he literally knew everybody – and I mean everyone. It’s a world where the good and the great are called ‘Bobbety’ and ‘Linky’ and everyone dines at the “Beefsteak”. Rose had a gift for friendship and was welcomed into their confidence by the Queen Mother and the Duke of Kent, the Kings of Spain and Greece, every Politician and Prime Minister in his life time, the great figures in the Arts and two of my Headmasters. He was even granted an audience with Emperor Hirohito in Japan. His journals are a panoply of modern history as he and his friends and acquaintances experienced it. They are also edited by my old history teacher.

One of Rose’s intimates was Selwyn Lloyd the former Speaker of the House and Chancellor of the Exchequer. He used to visit him at his country house in Preston Crowmarsh with its visitors book boasting the names of Anthony Eden and Edward Heath among many others and Benson is mentioned a number of times including on the occasion of the arrival of the Duke of Windsor’s coffin at the airbase.

And all that got me to thinking about why local history is important and how I now live in a village that has a past richer than I understand. Wallingford has its museum but Benson’s history is stored in garages and peoples heads. Both villages have been important stop overs for travel and trade since the middle ages in fact there has been a settlement in Benson for over twelve thousand years.

As our community expands Benson’s story is in danger of being lost. A number of residents who have lived here for many years moved away in lock-down without fanfare or loud adieu and their memories of the village have gone with them. We are gradually in danger of losing sight of Benson’s past. If something isn’t done soon the village will become just another dormitory to commerce, and lose its character. I know people of goodwill have been trying to find somewhere to show off Benson’s past for nearly fifty years, and they understand that to know the bones of the community you live in enriches the experience of being a resident. It would be a shame if it was all lost.

For the February issue of the Bulletin we warmly welcome the return of the eloquence of Linda Parkin, we go on a trip to the Supreme Court in the USA, look through a window into the world of the Pangolin, lament the sad departures of Mr Watercress and our former Lock Keeper and reflect on Twelfth Night. The month will also stage the Bulletin’s AGM which anyone is welcome to attend and throw the customary custard pies at the Editor. Keep well everyone and stay safe.





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IN MEMORIAM

ALAN RAYMOND HASTINGS



Alan was born in Kingston-upon-Thames, second son of five children to Henry “Harry” and Lucy Hastings on 14th May 1940.

He joined the family business in 1955 when he first skippered the launch Em between Buckland’s Wharf and Hampton Court before signing his indentures as a Waterman & Lighterman to his elder brother Roland.

He continued his apprenticeship on The Robertsbridge from 1956–1958 operating between Brentford and Shell Haven.

Becoming a Freeman of The Honourable Company of Watermen & Lightermen in 1961, Alan’s first command was the family-owned Connaught. However, his favourite vessel would forever be Her Majesty’s as this was the boat upon which he met his wife of 52 years, Tina.

He left the lower Thames in 1972 to become Assistant at Teddington Lock and, following a spell as a Relief Lock Keeper in Oxfordshire, he became Lock Keeper at Benson from 1978 until his retirement in 2002.

As a teenager, Alan had been a Mod riding a Lambretta and especially enjoying the music of The Rolling Stones, The Who and Queen although, following his move to Oxfordshire, he enjoyed treating the locals in The Crown to his renditions of Chas and Dave.



He personally trained his German Shepherd, Odin, and became Southern Counties champion in obedience and tracking, played football to a high semi-Pro status, attained an orange belt in karate, and was a stalwart of the darts and bar-billiards leagues in Benson. When not the centre of the local social scene, Alan busied himself with his love of oil painting and model making.

On retirement, he moved to South Barrow, Somerset. An avid West Ham United fan to the end, Alan blew his last bubble in Yeovil on 13th



October 2020. He leaves behind his wife Tina, sons Mark, Gary and Stephen, daughter Julie, and his much-loved grandchildren Josh, Hannah, Eirik, Aimi, Connor (CJ), Kristien and Ryan.



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BOB THE POSTIE



Bob was a Benson village postman for several decades. An ex RAF man, he became well known to many as he was always willing to help people out and enjoyed a good chat. He was unexpectedly forced to give up his round last year due to ill health and is now in retirement. If anyone would like to send him a card to cheer him up it will be forwarded if addressed to: Bob North, c/o Royal Mail Office, Lupton Road, Wallingford, OX10 9WA.



Ivor Allen

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The Distribution Manager for the Benson Bulletin will be standing down soon, therefore the BB Committee is looking for a volunteer willing to spend a couple of days a month to ensure the continuation of delivery for the future. This will involve arranging for the collection of the magazines from the printers and distribution to the door to door deliverers, working with the current manager for the next few months to ensure a smooth changeover. If you would like to help out please contact Ivor Allen on 839003 or Sandie Griffith on 832598.

BENSON BULLETIN NEWS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be on Tuesday February 23rd at 8pm on ZOOM. The agenda will include an update on our move to being a Community Interest Company We will be seeking authority to wind up the old Association and to transfer our assets to the new company. If this is agreed we will then trade as the new company and be able to consider new applications for grants in support of local organisations and societies. If you would like to attend this meeting please send your name and e-mail details to kate.h@ntlworld.com I will then send you a link. If you are not on e-mail or cannot access Zoom but want to be involved in the decisions of this meeting, please ring me. Kate Hart 01491 838689.

WEB MANAGER FOR NEW BULLETIN WEBSITE

The Bulletin has a new website: bensonbulletin.co.uk which is now live on-line. The old website bensonbulletin.com will be discontinued in April. The redesign means you can now read the Bulletin as a 'flip book' on-line and can also listen to the audio as well as continuing to be able to download the files. Going forward we need someone to look after the site, to update it, explore the advertising opportunities it provides and continue redesigning the content and suggest new ways it can be improved – this to be done in collaboration with the Editor. If you are interested in this role please contact Sandie at: sandie@theflower.co.uk



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ON THE PLOT

The moment I flip the calendar over to February my seed-sowing fingers start to twitch, as they hover over those oh-so-tidily-arranged packets full of summer promise. My clean and shiny tools reflect the excited gleam in my eye, while neatly stacked seed trays and pots, and those smart new gardening gloves, challenge me to keep them looking so pristine. No chance! Once I'm over the starting line it will be full steam ahead and all that good preparatory work will soon be undone.

But wait. It is only February, and this is frost-prone Benson. So it will be quite a while before any self-respecting seed, or indoors-germinated and nurtured seedling, will relish being committed to the cold, wet earth and left to shiver and rot. A spot of self-restraint, by adding a week or three to the suggested sowing time on the packet, is advice I try and remember to follow. It's hard, though. Until, that is, I remind myself that I still have squatters on the plot, with the last of my winter veg store to evict (chard, leeks, celeriac, kale and parsnips) before I can prepare the soil for the arrival of this year's new occupants.

How then can I keep those itchy fingers occupied? Well, for a start, it's time to get drastic with those raggedy autumn raspberries and cut them down to the ground, while a few strategically positioned cloches will help to warm the earth for the first early sowings of carrots etc next month. Then there's undercover work to be done: chitting seed potatoes, rooting onion sets in modules and sowing sweet peas in pots. I'll be germinating some leftover broad beans too, to fill a few gaps in my November-sown rows; thankfully I took the precaution to protect these with wire netting, as our local muntjac reportedly enjoys nipping off the green shoots and feasting on what remains of the seed below ground!

The one thing I won't be doing is any serious digging. Freshly turned earth may look nice, but it would be a tragedy to risk destroying that beneficial network of soil-dwelling organisms by plunging in the spade. So the increasingly recommended 'no-dig' approach is, in my view, a no-brainer. True, it works best on raised beds and smaller areas of ground, where all that's needed is to spread a thick layer of manure or compost over the surface each year for the worms to process. I would need lorry-loads of the stuff for my large plot, but that's no reason not to apply the principle selectively and as for the rest, well, a gentle forking over should be all that's needed. Except, that is, where I sowed an experimental 'crop' of phacelia in the autumn as a green manure. I shall have to harden my heart and turn this under before those lovely powder blue flowers appear!

It won't be long before former acquaintances are renewed and newcomers welcomed as plotters young and old(er) slowly emerge from hibernation, and what has in recent months been a fairly deserted allotment site shakes off its winter torpor and starts to hum with activity once again.

Linda Parkin



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CHURCH AND VILLAGE

Remember ‘Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Spy’? The first (1979) great Alec Guinness TV version? If so, its theme tune will still haunt you. A soaring boy treble sang Geoffrey Burgon’s setting of the text that more than any other marks out February for all those versed in the mysteries of church life and music – for it is the Nunc Dimittis: ‘Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace’. It’s central to the feast of Candlemas (2nd February) whose themes are well worth considering, even if you have no interest in the Christian religion. Luke’s Gospel tells the final episode in the Christmas sequence, the story of Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus, 40 days after his birth, to be presented at the Temple in Jerusalem. Here he is recognised as divine by Simeon and Anna, two very ancient devout people of the kind that haunt – God bless them – every church and cathedral (and no doubt synagogue, mosque and gujewara).

So this story looks back to the celebration of a birth, and forward to all that is yet to come. Psychologically, it means we leave Christmas behind – and instead, look ahead of us. It links a not-yet-two-month-old baby with the very elderly, in a powerful moment of handing over and handing on. Simeon ‘lets go’ – the future belongs to this newborn child. But here is no chocolate box sentimentality: what is anticipated is no less than, over 30 years hence, the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. It’s a key festival of light – the Christ child is recognised as ‘the light that will lighten the gentiles’ – that is, the light of God’s love that will vanquish all the world’s darkness. The days may be getting longer and the nights shorter, but as I write the daily news of raging infection, hospitalisation and death make any easy celebration of the triumph of light shallow, meaningless, offensive. Hope will prevail over despair: but we have a long journey ahead of us; storm clouds gather around.

Prebendary Gillean Craig

BENSON TREFOIL GUILD

Trusting you have all had as enjoyable a Christmas as possible despite the restrictions. As Girl Guides we are good at making the best of things.

Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to meet and catch up on all the things we have missed in 2020. Go well and safely. I hope the following will make you smile:

I’m Seeing Several Gentlemen Every Day

“As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed.

Next it’s time for Earl Grey followed by Postman Pat.

Shortly afterwards Arthur Ritis shows up and stays for the rest of the day.
After such a busy day I am really pleased to go to bed with Johnnie Walker

The preacher came the other day

He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter
I told him I do – all the time, no matter where I am, in the parlour, kitchen,
bedroom or lounge, I ask myself “now what in the dickens am I here after”

Found in an old notebook

Pandora Huntingford

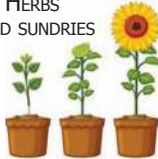


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SUPREME JUSTICE?



Most readers will be aware of the critical importance of the decisions of the US Supreme Court. Some have an impact worldwide. Recent months have served to highlight their potential significance in relation to American presidential elections and the Court has determined

the outcome of at least one such recent election. The building itself is imposing and awe-inspiring, which seems to re-inforce its importance. It sits alongside other beautiful buildings in Washington DC which I have been fortunate to visit several times. In the 1990s we made two visits to the White House and the tours included several of the state rooms. We were also able to tour the Capitol Building and had access to the Old Senate Building with its 100 exquisitely carved wooden desks. Now there is a new underground visitor centre; in the 1990s we had a choice of two public restaurants in the Capitol Building itself: The Senators' Dining Room or the US Senate Restaurant. Less beautiful, but infamous, is the Watergate Building which in 2005 provided us with a good hotel.

But back to the Supreme Court. During one trip we stood in line and after security checks were admitted to witness the afternoon's proceedings. We were lucky: the Supreme Court sits for nine months of the year, and in the autumn sits in public only two weeks out of four. I have sat through many High Court family proceedings for work, so I am used to court cases, but I found it hard to follow the case being heard in the Supreme Court and I can't recall the details. However, the process was interesting.

The lawyer/s on each side have 30 minutes to present their case to the nine Supreme Court Judges. Any (or all) of the Judges can interrupt with questions for clarification as often as they feel necessary and this counts as part of the 30 minutes. Hence lawyers spend months preparing their case so as to try to anticipate every possible angle and pre-empt Judges' interruptions. At the end of 30 minutes, the lawyer must stop his submission, even if they are in mid-sentence. When both lawyers have made their case, or more accurately had their 30 minutes, the Judges retire. They reserve judgement which is usually handed down several weeks later, so I don't know the outcome of "my" case.

Notwithstanding that the Judges are highly qualified and experienced legal minds, it was not – to my mind – a very satisfactory way to operate. As a way of determining such critical and significant matters as is the case in the US, it did not obviously have the level of robust enquiry that I expected. I was left feeling less than convinced by the process.

But I remain awed by the building itself, and as a member of the public, I was made to feel far more welcome by court officials there than when I attended the public gallery at the Old Bailey.

Kate Hart



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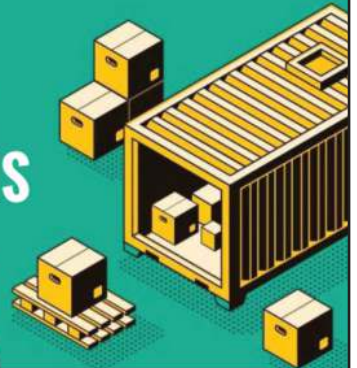
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BENSON NATURE GROUP

A Backward Glance and a Forward Look

“This generation has one job – to save our planet.” So said an environmental campaigner recently, referring to the climate and ecological emergency. Indeed, the UN’s Decade on Ecosystem Restoration starts in June this year following global biodiversity talks in China in May. The objective is to halt nature loss and ensure that by 2030 we have more nature than we do now, through improvements in the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species and ecosystems.



2020 saw a growing trend of people pro-actively caring for nature in their own communities. Benson was no exception. Last year, improving our natural environment and encouraging people to observe and record local nature were key BNG themes. Early last year, 25 individuals planted 332 native tree saplings at Warwick Spinney.



And BNG’s tally at our local environmental records centre reached 27,934 sightings of 567 species - blackbirds and blue tits being the most recorded species, but starling and house sparrow numbers showing a rapid decline in the last 20 years.

Planning for conservation relies on records of “common” as well as “rare” species, so these records are vital.

As activities moved online, we celebrated Benson’s green spaces in a brilliant short film, “Wild about Benson” by Edel McGurk with walk-on parts by Imogen Parker, Tom Stevenson and a very loud lorry! And as the nights drew in some much-needed escapism was provided by talks on the exceptional biodiversity of tropical America and the British Overseas Territories. Later in 2021 we plan to resume outdoor events to learn more about Benson Brook, our trees and green spaces.

Our programme will be posted to our website shortly but if you have suggestions for talks or activities please do let us know. Also, we will be recruiting more volunteers. In particular, we are looking for a new Secretary. To find out more about this role (a good organiser but no need to be a wildlife expert) pcontact Tom at thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com



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Human interaction with wildlife in China’s wet markets contributed to COVID’s moving from wild animals to humans. And it could happen again as we continue to encroach on wildlife habitat and deplete the natural world. The UK is already one of the world’s most nature-depleted countries. But, as we emerge from the pandemic, there are signs that nature’s recovery will feature more prominently in political thinking. The next UN Climate Change talks (COP26) will take place in Glasgow in November; the UK government has published a ten-point plan to tackle the climate and ecological emergency; governments all over the world are planning for a “green” economic recovery. These are some of the not-to-be-missed opportunities for our generation. Scientists say we need a step change in nature’s recovery to assure our own survival. Meanwhile on a small scale BNG will strive to make a difference.

Next event:

“The Clitterhouse Farm Project” by WWF’s Thomas Ball. 19.30, 9th February. Online talk about an inspiring urban re-generation project.

Val Siddiqui

BENSON ON THAMES

As the year turns, this old codger is amazed to find I have been retired over a quarter of a century. Retired that is from a long Army career and back to the Benson of my childhood. So, 25 years ago two things struck me. Firstly, that the village didn’t seem to have a worthwhile magazine. Well Frank Moran and I sorted that out.

Secondly that an ever-busier A4074 seemed to be cutting us off from our biggest asset, namely the Thames. As a result, a few of us set about badgering our then County Councillor High Cundall, and eventually the crossing was installed. I am pleased to see in last issue’s BB that it is to be upgraded to a Toucan crossing (whatever that means!).



Which finally brings me to the point of this article. The new Benson Care home has on its western side a narrow public foot path down to the A4074, and on the far side the footpath continues to the Thames. Surely with that Care Home, and all the new housing west of Littleworth is the time to enhance that access to our river? It only requires a bit of effort by a few people to make that happen.



First, might Grundons be prevailed upon to give us an extra couple of yards of what is currently just waste woodland to widen the path? Secondly Oxford Highways be asked to put in at least an island in the middle of the road, and tidy up the awful muddy lay by on the Thames side of the road at that point. Anything that can be done to slow traffic at there is surely to be welcomed on that straight stretch. I guess it just now needs the Parish Council to take up the challenge and carry it forward.

Peter Clarke

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TWELFTH NIGHT

Wreathed in fog, the Thames and Thame, unbanked by December's rain, have almost been lost to sight these early days of 2021. The Clumps similarly have often been a ghostly silhouette. Even the edges of the fields beyond the village boundary have melted into shadowy hedgerows and misty woods.

It has been cold. At its most intense, it has been that very English cold that gnaws at one's joints. My poor knees witness to the keenness of this cold. Jostling youth has left its mark upon my frame and arthritis is a familiar friend.

The village looks bare without the myriad Christmas lights. Day by day the sky is dull, dull and grey. The rain succeeds the cold which then returns. And likewise, another familiar friend of these times - lock-down has also returned. It now hangs about the New Year's beginning.

We had put up more lights and earlier than is usual for us, but we did not wait for the Twelfth Day of Christmas to put them away. As I packed the boxes of baubles I was reminded of that debate about when Christmas decorations should come down. Like most subjects of the most heated of debate many hold trenchant views, but few are well informed. There is also that annual puzzle over when Twelfth night actually falls. As it happens, there is good reason we are puzzled. It reflects the fact that modern Christmas is a Johnny-come-lately even if he's dressed as Santa Claus. Our Christmas is a Victorian manufacture. Like many things Victorian, it evoked an ancient medieval past, but by the time Dickens penned his "Christmas Carol" and crowned his pudding with a holly wreath, the calendar of both days and times had been long lost. In between Dickens then and our now, Christmas has - like the seasons changed by climate - moved earlier and earlier.

By the time Oliver Cromwell abolished it in the middle of the seventeenth century, Christmas and its festivals had been in decline for a century or so. Despite the Restoration in 1660 of King Charles II, Christmas as a season never really recovered from Cromwell's disdain.

Until the Reformation the Season of Christmas was book ended by two great feasts - Christmas itself and on the 12th day Epiphany. The greater feast had in fact been Epiphany - which memorializes the arrival of the Three Kings. This is still the case in much of Europe. The first night of Christmas is therefore after Midnight Mass which renders the 12th Night - the 5th of January.

It was this latter occasion which - like a Mardi Gras - was the focus of the festival. And like Mardi Gras, Twelfth Night was a topsy-turvy time when paupers were princes and princes were put out of their accustomed place and waited on their servants at table. This ritual madness of servants as kings and boys as bishops commenced on feast of Holy Innocents (28th December). Like great Church festivals which kept an Octave the topsy turvy world of boy bishops and servant-princes parodied it with 8 days of licensed mayhem. Plays - such as those Shakespeare wrote for Elizabeth I's court - came from this and famously, "Twelfth Night", the heroine is a woman dressed as a man. Its plot therefore nods to a custom that by then was on the wane.

In the Ireland of my childhood a strong folk memory of that topsy-turvy remained. There Epiphany was colloquially called Nollaig na mBan - which translates as "Women's Christmas" or "Little Christmas". The name reflected the fact it was the day

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when women went out together and the cleaning and cooking at home was done by the men. It was a day for tea and Christmas Cake with friends. In our family we also had a roast chicken for dinner and Christmas crackers which substituted for presents. In Ireland the custom of only taking down Christmas decorations after Epiphany lived on. In the countryside of Ireland many kept to the even older way of only taking down the tree and decorations a week after Epiphany. In any event the crib remained in its place until Candlemas. And whilst the greenery was burned in fires after the candles were brought home from Church, the holly, was kept as kindling to be used on Shrove Tuesday when pancakes were made.

The folklore about it being unlucky to take down decorations too soon harkens back to pagan times and the cult of Celtic goddess Brigid whose great festival of Imbolc (also kept around Candlemas) and was associated with fire and the lighting of tapers, along with poetry, tall-tales and their telling.

Brigid's followers included sprites and fairies who lived in the green woods and with whom we shared the warmth of our homes. They came in with the greenery cut down at Yule (mid-November). If we put them out too soon, it was believed they would wreak a mischievous revenge. Perhaps we might make bold to regard the inconveniences of this current lock-down as the mischievous prank of some unhappy faeries. There are worse conceits, and it is said ultimately faerie guile will always make us smile. By this month's end let's hope that as the season turns its course, this pandemic will also turn. Until then keep safe.

John Murphy

BENSON CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Many thanks to all who took part in the Christmas Quiz. We hope you enjoyed following the Heritage Trail around the village. A reminder that the Heritage Trail leaflet can also be found on the Bensington Society's History Group website at: bensingtonhistory.org/benson-village-tour. All the correct entries were put into a prize draw and 19 lucky prize winners have now been notified.

Thank you so much to our Village organisations who kindly and very generously donated the prizes, from hampers and meals out, to vouchers for spending in our local shops. Please try to support our Village businesses as they help to keep our community thriving, and they need our support even more than usual in these uncertain times.

Fenella Galpin

BRIGHTEN UP BENSON

Calling all musicians and singers. As part of your daily exercise, who out there is up for going to allocated roads in Benson, to play/sing to bring some entertainment to the people living there.

If you would love to share your talents in this way, whatever your age, please contact Caron, by phoning (as I have limited internet access) 825034. Lets help make 2021, a year of sharing, in whatever way we can.

Caron Spence

	
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DESMOND DIX – MR. WATERCRESS



Desmond Dix passed away peacefully on the 4th December 2020, surrounded by his family, at his daughter's house in Abingdon. He was 85. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

It is not an exaggeration to say that without Des Dix the cress beds at Ewelme might not still be in existence!

The Ewelme Watercress beds closed rather suddenly in 1988 after about 100

years of watercress cultivation. That might have been the end for the watercress in Ewelme as the beds were quickly colonised by a variety of weeds blocking the flow. In addition, the wooden dams that control the depth of water and flow had begun to rot and disintegrate.

For three years the beds deteriorated and one man, Des, decided that something needed to be done. In 1975, he bought a house by the side of the Ewelme beds. When cultivation stopped, and the beds were obviously deteriorating, he approached the owners for permission to work on the site, and then in 1991 set to work with his son to clear the weeds and restore the site.

It soon became apparent that he and his son could not do this on their own so he appealed for volunteers from the village to help him. Many from the village rallied round. But it needed more resources than even the village could offer and he, therefore, approached the Chiltern Society Conservation Volunteers, who agreed to organise work parties in the summer of 1992. In those early days Des's house became the hub of the organisation being used for meetings, work session refreshments, supplied by his late wife Avril, together with a first aid centre and other facilities.

1994, Des sold his business, and, having time on his hands, undertook to completely rebuild the dams which control the level, flow and distribution of the water. Each dam had to be cut and shaped in situ, so that it fitted exactly the shape of the bed, and Des had to re-learn the technique.

Des, together with other villagers, was also instrumental in setting up The Friends of Ewelme Watercress Beds which still exists and provides great support to the current management team. Des will be sadly missed for his knowledge and expertise but I'm sure he is looking down and guiding us from above.

The whole management team and the many volunteers send their sincere condolences to his family and hope we can celebrate his life, as he so richly deserves, when conditions allow.

RIP DES

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Benson House Care Home Opening February

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SUNDA PANGOLIN - MANIS JAVANICA



Many people had never heard of the pangolin, until 2020 and Covid-19, with the pangolin believed to be one of the conduits of the disease from animal to human via bats in China's black market wildlife markets. Now people have heard of the pangolin but for all the wrong reasons and a falsely negative light has been thrown upon this gentle, enigmatic creature.

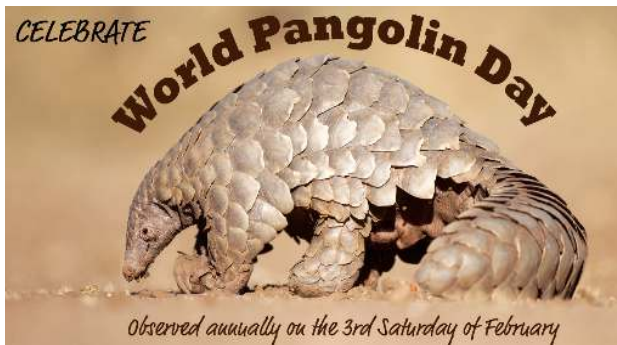
Pangolins have been around for 80 million years and are the only truly scaly mammal, often being confused for a reptile. They are insectivorous, utilizing long claws to break into ant and termite nests before lapping up their prey with an extremely long, sticky tongue but have no teeth. Their eyesight is poor and they

locate their food with an incredible sense of smell. They live in burrows dug with the large claws and in trees which they climb with the help of a prehensile tail. When born, baby pangolins ride around on the mothers back for around three months until it is strong enough to feed solely on insects. When threatened pangolins curl up into a ball much like our hedgehogs, with their scales offering strong protection from predators, however, this makes them extremely vulnerable to poachers and easily caught as they can simply be picked up and bagged up.

There are eight different species of pangolin, four in Africa, four in Asia and are the world's most trafficked mammal with over a million estimated to have been taken from the wild since 2000. In China and Vietnam, their meat is considered a delicacy while the scales are highly sought after for traditional medicines despite the fact they're made of keratine, the same as our hair and fingernails. The rate of poaching is driving pangolins to the brink of extinction with all eight species on the IUCN RedList and the most threatened of all being the Sunda pangolin, listed as Critically Endangered, one step away from being Extinct in the Wild. Pangolins are notoriously difficult to keep in captivity due to the nature of their lifestyle and diet making any captive breeding programmes nearly impossible.



I had the responsibility of caring for an adult Sunda pangolin while working as an animal keeper at ACCB (Angkor Centre for the Conservation of Biodiversity), a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre in Cambodia. She and her baby had been confiscated from poachers and brought to us for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the baby didn't survive due to the stress of the whole ordeal but it was a happier ending for the mother. To care for her we had to



forage for red ant nests in the surrounding forest to provide the correct diet. Great for the pangolin, not so great for me as there are hundreds of ants in the nests, they have a horrible bite and manage to get everywhere! Worth it though for one of the most charming creatures I've had the honour to work with.

February 20th is World Pangolin Day, the perfect time to go online and see some of the conservation efforts happening around the world with savepangolins.org being a good place to start!

Nikki Hulse

THE BENSON CHRISTMAS BAUBLES

Thank you to all Benson residents young and old who bought and created a Benson Christmas Bauble Kit for the Christmas tree in Benson this Christmas season. So far we have raised £270(!) for the school. All money raised goes directly to Benson PTA for Benson Primary School (FOBS) which will be much appreciated.

Some people wrote some lovely messages on the backs of them and I have been hearing that a lot of people enjoyed reading them.

I would also like to thank our local shops: Derry's Den, Maison White and Cafe No.25 for selling the baubles kits. Thanks also to Mr Peter Keeble who donated the Christmas Tree to Benson and has done for many years now.

And also a big thank you to the Parish Council who helped organise the Christmas Tree and decorations.

Marie Finch

WALLINGFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB



Pied Kingfisher - © Colin English 17

We continue to meet virtually, but we are offering a full programme of speakers, competitions, and other events to help you improve your photography and meet like-minded people.

The club meets via Zoom every Thursday evening. Start at 7.30pm and run until around 9.30pm, with Zoom access from 7.15pm. Our programme for February has yet to be fully confirmed but will include a "You Are The Judge" evening on the 11th: a chance for members to critique each other's photos and learn more about how photography competitions are judged.

On the 25th, Sue Morris will give a talk called "Waiting for the Herds (Tanzania)". Please visit: wallingfordphoto.club to learn more about the club and find out how to get involved.

MILL STREAM SURGERY

As you can imagine this is a busy time for the practice but we want to reassure you that whilst working hard to set up and run Covid-19 vaccine clinics we are still open to look after your medical needs. All GP appointments will take place by telephone unless the GP decides that you need to attend for a physical examination in which case they will give you an appointment to attend the practice in person.

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccine appointments are well under way and we have invited all our over 80's along with some front-line NHS workers and carers.

Where Are We Vaccinating Our Patients?

Currently all vaccine clinics are being held at Wallingford Hospital.

Who Is Being Vaccinated?

We are vaccinating patients in strict order of the groups given by the government:

- 1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers**
- 2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers.**
- 3. all those 75 years of age and over.**
- 4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.**
- 5. all those 65 years of age and over along with adults who provide regular care for an elderly or disabled person.**
- 6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with significant underlying health conditions.**
- 7. all those 60 years of age and over.**
- 8. all those 55 years of age and over.**
- 9. all those 50 years of age and over.**

Thank you for your patience. We will get to everyone as soon as vaccine supplies allow.

When will I get my second dose?

As the number of COVID-19 cases has risen in the UK and the government has made the decision to offer as many people as possible a single vaccine first, before giving second doses. It is thought by doing this, as many people as possible will be offered protection as quickly saving more lives Current policy is that second doses will be given 12 weeks after the first dose.

How will I get to hear about the appointment for my second dose?

We will contact you by telephone, text or letter giving you details.

Am I protected against COVID-19?

A single vaccination offers some protection against COVID but we must all continue to follow government guidance and we should take every precaution to prevent infection.

Should I ring the surgery to make my vaccine appointment?

No – **please do not call us.** We will contact you – by telephone, text or letter.

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Can I choose which vaccine I have?

No – unfortunately there is no choice. The vaccine available at the time your age group is vaccinated will be the vaccine you are given.

Where can I find out more information?

Our website is updated regularly and has an informative section on COVID vaccine with links to appropriate websites.

We are very grateful to Christine Rees at the Community Hub for organising volunteers who have worked really hard as car park stewards at the clinics at Wallingford Hospital. They have helped our patients with parking and getting to the clinic in a timely manner. If you would like to volunteer at a future clinic please contact Christine on 01491 353524

**Many thanks and we wish everyone a very happy 2021.
Mill Stream Surgery.**

PATIENTS PANEL

Prescriptions with a difference

We have written previously about ‘social prescribing’ in the Bulletin. We’re pleased to report that this has now become a reality in Benson. But what is ‘social prescribing’?

Normally we associate prescribing with the medicine we need to help make us better. But there are times when medicine alone doesn’t or can’t do the job of healing us. Good health is much more positive than just not being ill. To quote the World Health Organisation: “Health is state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

We all have things in our lives we enjoy doing which also help us stay well, but sometimes we don’t know what is available locally or how we can take part, or we might lack the energy or confidence to join in. Social prescribing is a way of helping people to identify what matters to them and what steps they could take to feel healthier and happier.

In our area Mill Stream, Goring/Woodcote and Wallingford surgeries have appointed Beth Jones as our well-being worker. Beth will hold 1-to-1 sessions with people who are experiencing mental health issues or other difficulties that are affecting their well-being. She will aim to encourage and enable people to link with existing support services, use the support available in their local community, and develop their ability to manage their own wellbeing. If you would like to access this support, then please speak to your GP.

You only have to glance through the pages of the Bulletin to see the wide variety of activities available in Benson, and we have seen over recent months just what a caring community we have here, even more so with the establishment of the Millstream Community Hub, which gives Millstream Centre a secure base for continuing its support for isolated and vulnerable people even when the pandemic is over. We are ideally placed to help make social prescribing work in Benson. The Patients’ Panel warmly welcomes Beth and is looking forward to working with her and supporting this important initiative.

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Patients' Panel AGM

The Panel will hold its AGM on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Monday 8th February (Covid allowing). The AGM is open to all patients registered at Mill Stream Surgery. If you would like to attend please contact Maggie Winters on 837724 or by email: bensonpatientpanel@gmail.com so that we can send you the link. There are three vacancies on the Panel. If you are interested in joining the Panel please contact Maggie by 4th February for a nomination form and details of what is involved. Following elections to the Panel there will be a Q and A session with Surgery staff.

Maggie Winters

BENSON MILLSTREAM CENTRE



Happy New Year from the Trustees to all our customers, staff, volunteers, and supporters!

The run up to Christmas was a busy one for the Millstream at Home and Benson Community Hub team. Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who donated to the Festive Food and gifts appeal.

In Christmas week, Donna, Christine and our band of volunteers parcelled up and delivered thirty two food parcels to needy families in the area and a total of fifty five children's presents were also distributed. The food parcels are an on-going weekly service but our food supply situation has changed recently and more supplies are needed. If you would like to donate non-perishable items there is a box in the porch at the Centre. Alternatively, contact the Hub on 01491 352524 for collection.

Millstream at Home customers enjoyed the three course Christmas lunch cooked by our chef, Patrick, and delivered by fourteen volunteers on December 23rd. They also received a goody bag with a small gift just before Christmas. If you would like to take advantage of our meal service – delivered to your door - please ring Donna on 01491 834889 to arrange.

At the request of the Patients Panel at the Millstream Surgery, our volunteer drivers are taking residents with no other source of transport to Wallingford Hospital for their Covid vaccinations. The Hub also provides marshals to manage parking at the hospital on the days when the Millstream Surgery team are vaccinating there.

The 400 Club draw took place in December and prize winners have been notified. Rob is currently investigating ways to run the lottery safely as it is a big fund-raiser for us, especially while we cannot host live events. We really want to hold on to our regular donors.

With the new lock down in place, don't forget that the Hub is there for essential shopping and prescription collection if you are shielding or isolating. Just call 01491 352524 or email: bensonmillstreamcentre@gmail.com and we will help you.

We are always grateful for donations and the easy way to support us is through Just Giving. To donate just click on the link: [justgiving.com/millstreamdaycentre](https://www.justgiving.com/millstreamdaycentre)

And lastly, don't forget that we are now one of three causes in our community that Co-op Members (those with a loyalty card) can select to support between now and October 2021. The more members who select Millstream, the more funds we'll receive.

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THE BENSON WI



During December and January, Benson WI members were sadly not able to meet up as planned for our normal meetings to pass on Christmas Greetings and raise a glass of bubbly to see in the New Year, so it was correspondence via a newsletter and Christmas card only. Also, on a very sad note, we received the news that one of our very long standing members had passed away. Iva Davies had been a member of the WI since the 1980s and her support will be missed very much.

On a happier note, some of our members were called forward for the Covid vaccine just prior to Christmas; we hope that this and the approval of the Oxford vaccine will put us on the road to better days.

There has been very little activity on a local level for Benson WI. However, during December and January, members were asked by the National Federation to consider changes to the WI Constitution regarding provision for more flexible meeting methods. Members were also asked to consider Campaign Resolutions for 2021 and to lobby support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill which is currently going through Parliament. The campaign resolutions shortlist this year included increasing awareness of ovarian cancer, protection of wildlife friendly communities, racism and discrimination, stopping the destruction of peat bogs and prevention of early deaths of women from coronary heart disease. Unfortunately, and sadly, Benson WI members have been unable to meet and discuss these very diverse issues as we would normally do at this time. The pros and cons for these important topics have been laid out on the WI websites and in our National WI Life and local OFWI magazines. It was agreed by our Committee to fund the OFWI magazine this year and so making it available for all members who have welcomed its return in hard copy.

Being optimistic and if all goes well, subject to guidelines, Benson WI should meet on Wednesday 24th February at 2 pm in Benson Parish Hall. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, a programme for the year has not been arranged so far. For any enquiries, please contact Benson WI Secretary via bensonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or 01491 837885.

Sue Brown (Secretary)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

We raised a total of £1,110 of which £930 was through our “Just Giving” page and £180 was sent directly to Christian Aid. In the circumstances, this was a good result.

Christian Aid said in their letter of thanks that the money raised by the Christian Aid Week and Corona Virus Appeals has enabled support for their local partners working in vulnerable communities, providing hygiene stations, sanitation kits and isolation hospitals as they continue to fight the virus.

At the time of writing we do not know whether we will be able to run more than a ‘virtual’ Christian Aid Week in May, but here’s hoping! With sincere thanks to everyone who donated or helped in any way, and wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021.

Alison Reid

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BENSON GARDEN CLUB

January's Benson Garden Club talk, "New Tricks for Old Gardeners?" by Katherine Crouch, was inspiring and practical, designed to keep us all gardening whatever the difficulties that face us. She began by challenging the assumption that hard landscaping with minimal planting is the only way to a low maintenance garden, and provided other solutions. For example, a tropical-style garden can be very dramatic but still low maintenance: she showed us the transformation of a sparse pub garden to an amazing plant-filled space which requires just three days' maintenance a year to stay beautiful. Woodland or orchard gardens were also suggested as possibilities, with Katherine taking us through the seasons and the level of maintenance each could require.

Eliminating jobs which cause pain and choosing plants that bring more joy and less work were also part of her mantra to keep us gardening. For example, planting fruit trees with dwarf rootstocks so that pruning and harvesting can be done without a ladder. Agapanthus, Phlomis russeliana and Diascia personata were recommended as even-tempered plants when it comes to temperature and dampness which also thrive on low maintenance. But even traditionally labour-intensive plants can be grown in a low maintenance way – she gave the example of wisteria being grown as a front boundary on a low fence with access on both sides. And when jobs do need to be carried out, she shared with us some useful gadgets which make the work less arduous. Finally, she gave some practical advice on how to use tools without causing unnecessary strain (e.g. don't hoe with a bent back but instead hold the hoe sideways with thumbs up). She also threw in plenty of all-purpose gardening tips along the way, like sprinkling hostas with chilli powder to keep slugs at bay.



Benson Garden Club's Zoom talk on Thursday 4th February 2021 will be given by Geoff Hodge (7.30pm connect for 7.45pm start). Entitled, "Gardening in Dry and Drought Conditions – Drought-resisting Plants", he will help us prepare for this summer and beyond. With weather conditions changing and warmer, drier summers on the cards, it may make sense to change your gardening habits and rely more on drought-resisting plants. There are numerous plants that have developed clever adaptations that help them reduce their dependence on water. So what are these adaptations and which are the best plants to help you reduce your summer watering regime? Geoff explains all in this illustrated talk. Geoff is a freelance gardening and horticultural writer, author, editor and radio and TV broadcaster. His most recent book is "RHS Botany For Gardeners", and he writes the tried and tested gardening product review features for "Garden News", a weekly consumer gardening publication.

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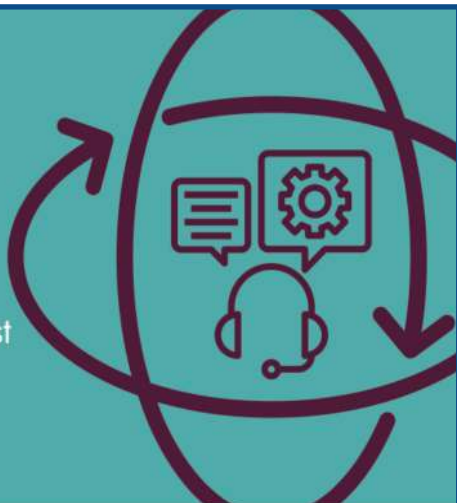
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We have a fantastic programme lined up for our members over the coming months and hope to encourage new members to join from the comfort of their armchairs. As always, we welcome visitors - you will need to let us know that you would like to join the event and arrange an online payment of £3 up to two days beforehand (we will then send you log-in details for the meeting). The visitors' form is on our website: bonsongardeningclub.weebly.com/visitors-membership.html - you can fill it in and submit it there. Further information about the club and how to join as a member can also be found on the website, or please feel free to e-mail: bonsongardeningclub@gmail.com

Liz Harrison

CUP WINNERS

In December Benson under 9's finished the year with a cup final win against Procision a team from Newbury who were sitting slightly higher than Benson in the Oxfordshire Youth A league.

The first half saw Benson struggle early on, but late on Benson got it together and started to impose themselves in the Procision half. The half time whistle saw no goals and plenty to play for. Benson came flying out of the traps in the second half and scored the first goal straight from the kick off. This made the second half really come alive as both sides went looking for more goals. Procision grabbed a deserved equalizer that fired Benson up even more. They showed great character, determination and a desire to go on and win the game. Two more cracking goals from Benson saw them win the game 3-1. Great to finish the year winning the cup.



Simon Cowlard

SODC UPDATE



**ANDREA POWELL
&
SUE COOPER**



Support For Residents During Lockdown

The SODC Community Hub continues to be available to help people access support and essentials during the lock down if they have nobody else to turn to. With the shielding programme in place again, we're expecting to see an increase in the amount of support the hub will need to provide. We want to emphasise to everyone that if you are need of support, you should not wait until you've run out of supplies before getting in touch. The Hub is there to help you!

Anyone who needs support can fill in an online form at: southoxon.gov.uk/communityhub, e-mail: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422600. Housing Needs have also seen an increase in people needing their support during the pandemic if they're at risk of being made homeless or sleeping rough – for more details visit southoxon.gov.uk/housing We also want to make everyone aware that support is available to residents who are experiencing financial difficulties – to find out more please visit southoxon.gov.uk/benefits.

Business Support

The picture of what grants are available is becoming quite complicated, as there are different schemes available for different types of businesses relating to the various levels of restrictions that were in place at different times. For more details about these grants, businesses should visit: svbs.co.uk – where all the most up-to-date information can be found.

We appreciate that businesses will be frustrated by the lack of clarity on some of the schemes and the time it can take to get a response to an enquiry. Each time the government announces a new grant it takes time before they provide us with the specific details and we can then put proper systems and procedures in place. Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure grants are paid out promptly and accurately.

Covid Vaccination Programme

The SODC team is also helping with the roll-out of the vaccination programme, by calling people to make appointments and by supporting the logistical operations. Although the nationwide programme is underway, it will still take several months for the whole population to be vaccinated. Please do not contact your GP or another NHS service to seek a vaccine – GP practices are still open for providing care to patients and their phones could become swamped, so please wait until the NHS contacts you. When the NHS does contact you, please be ready and attend your booked appointments. It is useful to have your NHS number to hand (see letters from the NHS to you.) In the meantime, it is essential that we all continue to follow all the public health guidance to control the spread of the virus, protect the NHS and save lives.

SODC Local Plan

As directed by the Secretary of State, SODC adopted its controversial Local Plan at a Full Council meeting on 10th December. Some improvements were made to the Plan during the Inspection phase, including the introduction of the new zero-carbon housing policy and the prioritisation of cycling and walking. However, the Inspector did not remove any of the strategic sites, nor reduce the housing delivery requirement, so we do expect major new applications to be progressed in the coming months or years for sites such as Chalgrove Airfield, Culham and Berinsfield. Each application will still have to satisfy normal planning conditions, as well as the conditions set out in the Plan for that site, but once a site is allocated in a Local Plan there is an assumption that planning permission will be granted.

Strategic Planning activity never stops, however, and we are already engaged in discussions across Oxfordshire and the broader Ox-Cam Arc initiative to create a longer-term strategic vision for the region, including employment opportunities (particularly in the area of green technology and innovation), digital infrastructure, environmental enhancements and community strengthening. And we are also investigating the feasibility of a joint Local Plan with the Vale of the White Horse,

since we share so many interests and issues (e.g. the development of the Didcot Garden Town).

Civil Parking Enforcement

The Council has now agreed to move ahead with taking responsibility from the police for managing on-street civil parking enforcement in collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council. We now expect this to move forward without delay and for powers to be transferred later in 2021. This will work alongside our existing off-street parking enforcement powers, and although the initial focus will be on “hot spots” in town centres, villages like Benson will also benefit in the long run.

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Maintaining and Enhancing Our Wellbeing

As you'd expect, we continue to adapt to the Covid circumstances and are taking the appropriate action to manage all our facilities – the Parish Halls are now restricted; but we intend to keep the play parks and outdoor facilities open and expect that we all respect Government Guidance.

The Parish Council Climate Emergency Working Group is beginning to form and we continue to develop a vision as to how we can create projects and policy approaches from our discussions – please see the Parish Facebook site for more details. We are keen to open this group up more participants.

Of note for sunnier days, there is a push to press for bathing water status in the Thames, Councillor Jo Robb from SODC will be supported by us representing the Benson stretch of the river.

Making Benson Brilliant

The Bertie West Field Working Group, constituted by the Benson Parish Council, has been working to ensure the site is properly maintained and to develop plans for its enhancement. To this end an entry ramp has just been completed allowing easier access and an alternative to the steep concrete steps.

We have also upgraded the speed of the broadband in the Parish Hall and hope that users will be able to benefit from it (whenever we are back to being able to use the facility...). On a less exciting note, Cala have informed us that the skate park may not now be open until March – this is disappointing and outside of the Parish Council's control; but we'll keep you updated.

Keeping Benson Beautiful

Over 200 trees have been provided by The Woodland Trust for members of Wallingford Green Gym to plant. These will greatly enhance local biodiversity and replace the blackthorn trees that had to be removed for safety reasons.

Other Notes

As previously reported, two Parish Councillors have resigned. By the time this article is published Benson Parish Council will have completed the co-option process, returning the Council to full strength. We look forward to welcoming & working with our new colleagues and are greatly encouraged by the number of applicants. We hope that our new members will be able to represent you well.

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PRESTON CROWMARSH – AIR CRASH #2

Readers may recall the previous crash report from 1956 printed in the BB, but our next report on a disastrous air crash in Preston Crowmarsh actually takes us back in time to WW2. Back to the early hours of 20th May 1944...

At 22.00 on the 19th May 1944, Lancaster MkIII (ND 898) had taken off from its base in Skellingthorpe, Lincs to raid the railway marshalling yards at Tours in France. This was part of the bombing done as a preparation for D-Day – trying to destroy the ability of the Germans to move up reinforcements quickly. This task was allotted to the RAF's 5 Group, including 50 Squadron and this particular Lancaster. In all, a force of 113 Lancasters were involved, together with four Mosquitoes whose task was to find and mark the target for the bombers

The seven man crew of 898 were fairly typical of the time, five Englishmen and two Canadians, all young, with the pilot Pilot Officer Jack Irving being the only officer and the “skipper” of the team. The crew had been together through the usual Operational Training Unit and Conversion Unit programme, but the regular bomb aimer, an Australian, had missed this mission and his replacement – Sgt F Drever – was scarcely known to the others.

The mission over Tours had gone well, visibility over the target was moderate and due to some thin cloud the attack had been made from 6,000 ft, much lower than was usual. No aircraft had been lost to enemy action and the raid was recorded as a success. However, on the return flight, thick fog had settled in at their home base in Lincolnshire and over much of England such that aircraft were being diverted to land at many airfields in the south of England. Hence Jack Irving and his crew found themselves at about 05.00 on a murky morning, trying to land at Benson - a strange airfield - at the end of a long hard night's flying. There were no “Blind Approach” facilities in those days, and the aircraft undershot on the final approach, hitting one end of the large barn at Crowmarsh Battle Farm, just a few hundred yards from the end of the runway.



Three crew members were killed in the crash – pilot Jack Irving, navigator Doug Jewell and bomb aimer F. Drever – whilst other four crew members were injured but recovered. These were Paddy Lawn (engineer), Owen Jones and Jake Redekopp (gunners) and Lloyd Phillips (wireless op). The resident Chamberlain family did what they could to help and assistance from RAF Benson soon arrived, moving the injured to the base hospital and to College Hospital in Oxford. The badly damaged old tithe barn was later repaired & restored by the Chamberlain family as was the grain drying machinery installed inside only the previous month.

Dave Rushton

FROM OUR RECTOR

The country is locked down again but churches are still (just) allowed to open for public worship, and the hygiene, social distancing, building ventilation and risk assessment regulations we adhered to in order to be able to stay open safely are incredibly stringent. We can't know what is going to come next. The Government could yet close public worship again; or as cases rise in South Oxfordshire we may ourselves decide it's too risky to continue to meet in person even with the existing safety protocols in place.

In church we're acutely aware of not being in control of what we are able to do Sunday by Sunday. The rest of life seems similar, to be honest – we're not in control of when we leave our homes, or what we can do when we do leave them. If the last year has taught us anything, it's taught us that we're less in control of things than we used to think. The truth is that we've probably never been quite so in control of matters as we have liked to persuade ourselves.

When we can't control our circumstances, we need to learn to accept things as they are. It's far easier said than done, especially in a world where we're increasingly told to "take back control" of everything – our own lives included. But there is considerable art in learning to let go of all we are trying to control, and simply to let things play out.

As Christians, we entrust ourselves and our circumstances to God. 'Not my will, but yours', prayed Jesus on the night of his betrayal and trial. We say a similar prayer every morning and evening when we say our own prayers: 'Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'.

We don't always know what God's will for us, or for our country, will turn out to be. But we do know that God's will is good, ultimately; and we do know that letting go of our own attempts to control everything at least frees us from the pressure of having to take responsibility for things we can't really fix.

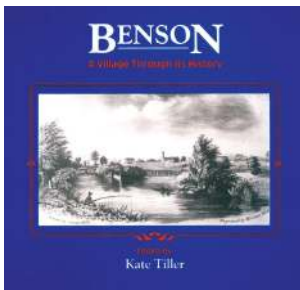
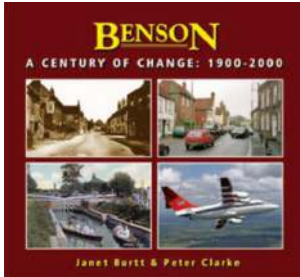
Services at both St Helen's, Benson and St Mary's, Ewelme are principally online for the time being – you can watch online services each Sunday at: bit.ly/BensonWithEwelme. For those without internet access, a short reading and sermon is also available by phone - call 01491 529988 (local rate).

For the latest updates on worship in church and online services, please ask to be added to the church e-mail list by contacting: rector@sthelensbenson.org.uk or ring me on 838535 to find out the latest.

Fr. Patrick Gilday

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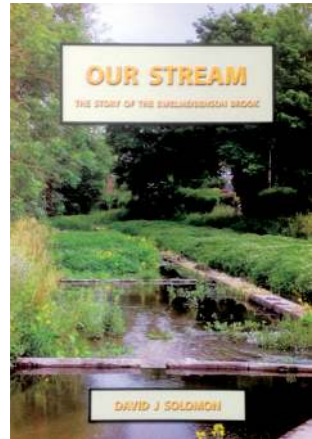
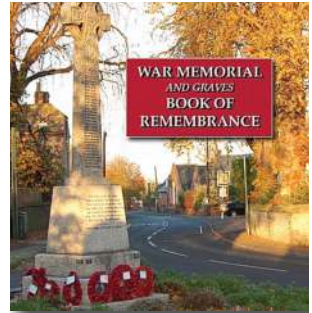
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“Benson: A Village Through Its History”

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You can buy them through the Bensington Society by visiting www.bensington-society.com - in Derry’s Den or from Peter Clarke.



JOHN HOWELL MP

If you wish to contact John Howell our MP, or have an issue or concern relating to Parliament you can email him at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or his constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

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Fr Stephen Cousins
Ewelme Parsonage 01491 839489
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Wallingford Methodist Church
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Ridgeway Community Church
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No:25

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About The Benson Bulletin

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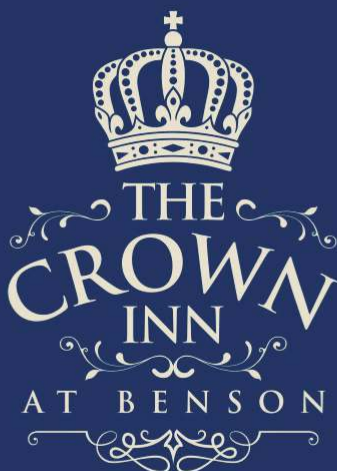
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