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JULY 2025

VOLUME 31 NO:10

£1

THE BENSON BULLETIN



© Michael Goss - 'Benson before Central Heating'
See page 6 for Benson Art Group Exhibition

THIS MONTH

- Gavin's Corner
- Lost Inns and Pubs
- A Benson Diary
- Parish Council Update
- Benson Community Gardens
- Benson WI
- From The Rector
- Benson Art Group

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July is the final issue of the thirty first volume of the Bulletin. It was decided long ago that there would be no August edition, I suspect because everyone is off on holiday and travelling to places far removed from their day to day lives. And travel can be a wonderful thing.



I remember some years ago wandering through the Souk in Sanaa the capital of the Yemen. The architecture around me was unique – described best I think as like “Christmas Cake” decoration. I rounded a corner to find an old man walking towards me. He held a long wooden crook and wore clothing that resembled a shepherd in paintings of the Nativity. In a blink I was carried back centuries to an ancient world now long forgotten, but in that instance I gained a greater understanding of the past.

There was a similar moment even longer ago standing on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, with the Garden of Gethsemane on my right, the Via Dolarosa in front of me and to my left, in the distance, Bethlehem balanced by Galilee and Nazareth a long way away to my far right. As I embraced the landscape I understood the journey that Mary and Joseph made in such a small landscape that now is such a vast part of the story that has shaped our lives and all our histories ever since.


I travelled through the West Bank, looked down on Jericho, put my back out climbing down from Masada, and entered Gaza, after my passport was taken away by a border guard with a machine gun who looked like an off-duty maths professor, and driving through it’s densely populated area to interview a politician who lived in a house on the seashore. I was momentarily stateless and vulnerable but understood more deeply the problems that haunt that region and have inevitably led to conflict.

Travel enriches you with experiences and such moments that frankly the UK will never provide, and that is its magic. Often though these experiences are unplanned and unexpected. Running for a plane about to take off from Diyarbakir in Eastern Turkey, and being hauled on board by the cabin crew, to be deposited breathlessly in a vacant seat, and see across the aisle a beautifully dressed woman. Beside her was an enormous bird cage with a parrot inside. I wondered at the time if the bird was travelling economy or business, Turkey tends to distort reality at such moments.

Rattling along on the night train from Latvia to St Petersburg with the Russian border guards waking us up at three in the morning to check our passports. They were all women in uniform and one of them flamboyantly wore gold court shoes. Then arriving in Peter the Great’s city to marvel at the pastel colours of the houses we walked among. Experience eh? Can’t beat it.

But these are memories it is no longer possible to have. The Yemen is being slowly destroyed. Russia is off limits because you are likely to be arrested, and as I write Gaza is in ruins and you are not allowed to travel to Israel. So many of the roads I have travelled down and enriched my life are now closed and my children and grandchildren I fear may never be able to experience the world as I have.

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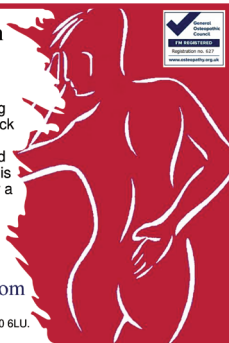


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AVAILABILITY OF THE BENSON BULLETIN

The main objective of the Community Interest Company that runs the Benson Bulletin is – through the work of its Board – to publish a parish magazine free of charge and deliver it to all households in the parish.

This task has been made more challenging of late due to increased printing costs and the need for more and more copies to meet the growing number of households. As a result, the Directors have reluctantly decided that after this month, the Bulletin will no longer be provided free of charge to households in Ewelme, Berrick, Roke and Rokemarsh, all of which have their own local magazines. Information about this decision has been separately provided to these publications.

The Directors would like to thank those deliverers who have ensured that the residents of these villages have received the BB regularly up to now. We would also like to remind these readers that the BB remains available to read on line every month on the BB website where there is also an audio version. Copies of this magazine will continue to be made available in the Benson Library, where there are back copies dating from the very first publication over 30 years ago.

Kate Hart, Secretary.

IN MEMORIAM

JUDY COOPER

Sadly Judy passed away in February and I would like to thank everybody locally who had helped her during the last two years. Although we live in Ewelme, Judy was often seen and around Benson on her wanderings. She attended the Millstream Centre on a Friday and was well looked after by Lindsey and all the volunteers, a day she looked forward to very much. She also enjoyed her respite periods at Benson House, who were very welcoming and loved her company, while I also had a break to re charge my batteries. To her local carer from Benson who came to help her every morning, a big relief for me.

**Once again my thanks
John Cooper**

BENSON EVERGREEN CLUB

The Club welcomes you to come and join us at our next meeting on September 10th in the afternoon from 2pm at Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside.

Our meetings commence at 2.30pm with a little business followed by one of the following:- a speaker, or music entertainment, quizzes etc. Followed by a cup of tea with a selection of cakes. The fee to join is £2.00. per year with an entrance fee of £1.00. We hold a monthly raffle with a good selection of prizes. We look forward to seeing you.

For further information please ring Ian Leppard (Leader) 01491 838580.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES:

MONDAY: 2pm - 6pm TUESDAY: 9am -12.30pm & 2pm - 5pm

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BENSON ART GROUP EXHIBITION

The members of Benson Art Group look forward to welcoming you to an exhibition of their work at the Benson Millstream Centre on Friday, 4th and Saturday, 5th July, where paintings on a wide range of subjects, including local scenes, will be available to buy at very affordable prices. So do come along between 7pm and 9pm on Friday and enjoy a glass of wine/juice and nibbles, or on Saturday between 10am and 12 noon for a cup of coffee/tea and biscuits, whilst browsing the paintings, meeting and chatting to the artists, maybe even making a purchase - or two! Admission, to include refreshments, is £4 on Friday, £2 on Saturday. Cash/cheque only please. A share of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Millstream, to support its invaluable work in our local community. An example of one of our members work is on the front cover of this issue of the Bulletin.

ART IN THE PARK

Howbery Business Park is inviting entries for the 2025 'Art in the Park' competition on the theme of 'Wellbeing in Nature'. Participants are being asked to interpret how the natural world benefits physical or mental health, with prizes on offer for the best 2D artwork in different age categories.

Offering wellbeing opportunities is an important part of Howbery Park's ethos. It invites the local community, alongside people working on site, to take part in nature-related events or to relax, wander, or exercise in its 70 acres of grounds.

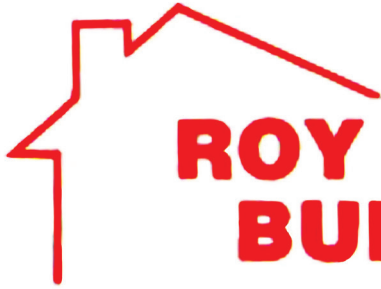
Donna Bowles, Howbery Estates Manager, elaborates: "Artists are free to interpret 'wellbeing in nature' as they wish, although we would of course particularly love to see artists take inspiration from the Howbery Park grounds. There are a lot of relaxing spaces in our parkland, riverbank, and woodland areas, plus we have wildflower patches and more formal flower beds, which attracts a lot of wildlife." First prize in the over-18s category is £500 while two highly commended entries will receive a £250 prize each. Winners in each of two junior categories (ages 4-11, and ages 12-18) will receive a £50 prize each for themselves and £250 for their nominated school or youth group to spend on art supplies.

The deadline for entries is 31 August 2025. Entrants aged 18 and under must create their artwork on a postcard measuring 148 x 105mm, which they can post or hand in. Over-18s' artwork can be up to A3 in size and must initially be submitted online as a photo. If shortlisted, over-18s artists will be invited to bring in their physical artwork, which will be displayed at an exhibition in the park on 7-10 October. Winners will be announced on 7 October 2025. Full details, and terms and conditions are on the Howbery park website: howberypark.com/art

EWELME VILLAGE SHOW

The Show will be held on Ewelme Recreation Ground on August Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August. The Show will be open to the public 2pm, entrance £1.

There will be prize winning exhibits of fruits, vegetables, flowers, floral arrangements, cookery and home crafts. Many of these will be auctioned at the end of the afternoon, around 4.15pm. Bertie Slippers will entertain the children. There will be stalls to browse around, tea and cakes to enjoy and Live Music, a Pig Roast and a Grand Draw.



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On Saturday 26 July at 7.30pm celebrated tenor John Mark Ainsley together with friends both vocal and instrumental present Music for the Accession of King Charles 1

On Saturday 16 August at 7.30pm the Consone Sextet will perform Brahms String Sextet No 1, and Schoenberg String Sextet Verklarte Nacht

On Sunday 24 August at 5.00 pm a Jazz Matinee from local musician Fleur Stevenson who, with an all-star lineup of jazz musicians, will showcase songs from The Great American Songbook by Gershwin, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael and others.

Tickets £20 (free for under 25s; under 15s to be with an adult) from wcm.org.uk

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wallingfordphoto.club/summer2025

The club is on a summer break, but there are activities to look out for ahead of September.

We have a photography competition which is open to all: Summer in Oxfordshire with a £100 prize up for grabs so why not give it a shot? See wallingfordphoto.club for details. Then come and see us over Bunkfest weekend: we will be holding our annual exhibition at St Mary-Le-More Church on August 30th. Drop by to view or buy our best work, chat to members and have some refreshments.

In September we start a new season so come and join our informal and inclusive group of enthusiasts.

On September 18th there will be an evening to welcome new members, discuss the new programme, and share ideas and progress on our photographic projects for the season. Then on 25th is a presentation on **'Astral Landscapes'** from Gareth Wilson, who will then take us outdoors for an exciting practical session (let's hope for clear skies!)

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GAVIN'S CORNER

BBOWT

“Back to life, back to reality” as Soul II Soul once sang in 1989 (Really? That long ago!) on Club Classics Vol. One, and so it is with the Benson Bulletin, back to writing about the everyday stuff, and leaving the election madness behind. On this, my 20th article birthday for Benson Bulletin under the auspices of Gavin’s Corner, I was thinking about using my “space” here for Oxfordshire County Council news but have decided to revert to the norm and just write my usual gibberish. I’m sure you’ll let me know if you’d prefer the former as I bump into you all around the village!

This last weekend saw a lovely event at St. Helens Church in the village for the Great Big Green Week which was well attended, and had lots to interest everyone from nature, to even getting your bike fixed! The team involved really pulled off a great event.

However, this isn’t what I am going to describe here, but a little idyllic place a few miles away. My wife, who volunteers at the Sutton Courtenay Environmental Centre once a month, booked us both in for a morning learning about how to be citizen scientists. This involved a lecture on nature and then touring round their lovely site looking out for, and listening to, all aspects of nature. Those who know me are well aware that education really was not my bag as a school kid (surprising given that all my family are / were educationalists!) and that I seemed to have obtained all my knowledge osmotically. This seemed different though and interesting!



The site itself is on the outskirts of an industrial estate, not exactly where you’d expect to find a tranquil haven of nature, the buildings are ramshackle, and the whole area has a charming otherworldly feel. The lecture introduced us to smartphone apps that can help identify and record sightings of pretty much any tree, plant, fungus, bird or insect. My favourite app was iNaturalist which you can point at anything and in real time it tells you what is in front of you, and as you move the camera it updates itself. We got lost in the vegetation and ended up crawling on our hands and knees to bring little creatures into (camera) view with our app accurately telling us what we were seeing. Utterly fascinating! For caterpillars it even shows you the beautiful form it will become.

My second favourite app was one I already had installed – the Merlin Bird ID app. For a truly mindful moment you can sit and listen to birds chirruping away, the app hears all the bird song and tells you what is present wherever you may be. You might not be able to see them, but the app knows what’s there.

Whilst we were there another group was learning how to carve wooden spoons, maybe one for another day – but definitely a place we will be revisiting, and one I thoroughly recommend to all.

Gavin Mclauchlan



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HOWBERY PARK EVENTS

BOOST YOUR BIODIVERSITY AND GARDENING KNOWLEDGE

Howbery Business Park is inviting the local community to attend its events again this year, most of which are free. Visitors and those based on the park can sign up to learn about the flora and fauna that can be found in the Howbery grounds, and even get free advice at its new gardening gatherings.

Howbery's newly introduced drop-in gardening gatherings will be held once a month over the summer with the landscape team on hand from 12-1pm to talk to anyone with gardening questions.

On July 2nd there will be a free **BUTTERFLY WALK** and on July 23rd we are holding a family '**MEET THE BEES**' event. With our expert beekeepers you'll get up close to our hives. We have two sessions available: 11am -12pm or 12.30 -1.30pm. Bee suits will be provided. The event is open to children age 8 and above. All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the workshop. Please note, this activity is not suitable for anyone who has required medical attention as a result of a sting, or pregnant women. As there are limited places available we ask that you register your interest below. Places will then be offered on a first come first served basis. When registering your interest you will need to provide details of your group size. Groups must be no larger than two adults and three children. Check out the website to find more details about these and other events.

Howbery Park is organising the events as part of its community outreach and commitment to a biodiversity scheme. Other options for visitors are to explore the Howbery Tree Trail or simply stroll round the grounds. A free map for the Tree Trail is available from the Manor Café during its opening hours – between 9am - 4pm on weekdays. The trail takes in eleven of Howbery's notable trees, which are marked by plaques in the grounds.

The events are open to all, but numbers are limited, so booking is essential - go to: howberypark.com/events

BOWLING GRANTS THANK YOU

Benson Short Mat Bowls Club are very pleased with the new equipment purchased with monies awarded from local grants. Thank you very much to local South Oxfordshire District Councillors, Benson Parish Council and Benson Bulletin.

The club has acquired several new sets of coloured bowls, which enhance visibility during play. Additionally, they have introduced a launching device and a wheelchair arm to facilitate participation for less mobile players. One player has reported significant improvement in his game due to the new launcher, prompting interest from other players as well.

The club meets at Benson Parish Hall on Monday Afternoons 1.15 – 4pm and most Thursday Evenings 6.45 - 9pm. We look forward to welcoming new members. Our numbers have grown well over the last 3 years and there is always a welcoming atmosphere at sessions. We also provide a warm space where all are welcome to watch, have a cup of tea and a chat. Do come along and have a go, first 3 sessions are free, you don't need any special equipment, just flat soled shoes.

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This year marks a very special milestone for Imogen Dental — 20 wonderful years serving the Benson Village community. Rejoicing 20 years of thriving success and community involvement is an incredible achievement.

The extraordinary journey began in 2005 when Dr. Neel Tank, the Practice Principal, took over the then Mill Lane Dental Practice from the late Dr. Clive Bosley, who was preparing to close its doors. Thanks to Neel and his wife Laura's vision, investment, drive, and dedication, the practice was not only saved but transformed into the multi-award-winning Imogen Dental you all know today.

The entire team with their loyalty and dedication to Dr Tank and his leadership, have worked hard to build a business that not only excels in dental care but also gives back to the local community and charities in a meaningful way.

2016 saw the introduction of the Imogen dental Charity initiative as Neel and his team were passionate about giving back and fundraising for worthy charities. Events such as Abseils, various walks and runs, a climb up Mount Snowdon, and Newbury's crafty craft boat race have fundraised over £20,000 for the various charities chosen.

New initiatives such as the Children's Canine Croc mascot, the exciting membership plan for kids, the unique opportunity to sponsor Benson United under 13s football team, shows a commitment to both patient care and local engagement.

Over the years, Imogen dental, named after Neel and Laura's daughter Imogen, has been honoured with numerous accolades including Best Dental practice, Best Dentist, Best team, and many more, regionally, nationally and at international award ceremonies. As you will agree this is testament to Dr Tank and his team's ongoing commitment to excellence in dentistry, patient care, community engagement, and charitable support.



To launch the 20-year anniversary celebration, Imogen Dental has donated £1,000 to Benson Primary school to help fund new science and sport equipment - Supporting the next generation of potential science or medical/dental students is a wonderful way to give back and inspire future leaders. The 20 year anniversary celebrations will continue throughout the year!

We owe our success to you — our loyal patients, friends, and family. Over the past 20 wonderful years your trust, support, and belief in our mission has made this journey truly extraordinary.

**DR NEEL TANK AND THE TEAM WOULD LIKE TO
WHOLE HEARTEDLY THANK YOU ALL.**

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FROM THE RECTOR

There's been a bit of talk recently about a "quiet revival" in the Christian faith in Britain since the pandemic. It's an unscientific term, but certainly in our churches here, a few more people are turning up to church.

Sociologists tell us that, increasingly, people are seeking for meaning and authenticity. The Church seems well placed to respond. The days when the Church represented a social club for the well-to-do are now (happily) well in the past: the Church is a hospital for people who know we are spiritually sick, in need of the mercy and healing love of Jesus. The only thing we Christians claim to know that others perhaps don't is that we all need the mercy and healing love of Jesus, whether or not we realize it.

As a hospital for sick people in need of the medicine of God, we're a slightly awkward bunch. (Try asking any hospital's patients to govern themselves, and you'll quickly get an idea for what it is like.) Knowing that we are being healed and transformed and restored, we try and pass on the secrets of salvation to others in the hope that we can bless other people, too; but we're far from perfect at doing it, and we know it. But the strange thing is: around the world, well over a billion people keep coming back to this rambunctious community of people who are on a road to salvation. And – amazingly – it seems as if just now even more people than usual are interested in the idea that humanity might need some healing, and in the possibility that Jesus alone can provide it.

If that's you, then do come along and join us on Sundays. As I say, none of us is anywhere near perfect; as Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to put it, we're all "sinners, trying to become saints". But we've discovered along the way, that when we come together to worship God with other people who are similarly convinced that we need Jesus' saving grace, he somehow does heal us, gently and steadily. And that gives us hope.

Later on in the year (in September) the church groups in Benson are going to be offering a chance to explore the Christian faith in a no-pressure way. Based around desserts (for who does not like desserts?) we'll meet in the Parish Hall on Monday evenings, starting on 29th September, to spend 90 minutes or so exploring who Jesus is, and why he might just be the one the world – and you – have been waiting for. If you want any more information (or want to let us know of any dietary requirements) do contact us on bensonalphacourse@gmail.com.

Services in July and August take place at St Helen's, Benson every Sunday at 9.30am. On Sunday 6th July there is also a service at 4pm (4 O'Clock Church – a family-friendly service lasting 30 minutes) and on Sunday 20th July there will also be a said Holy Communion service using the old Prayer Book at 8.15am.

At St Mary's, Ewelme, services take place each Sunday at 11 o'clock, except on Sunday 31st August.



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BENSON MILLSTREAM CENTRE



Benson Millstream Centre

Bringing Seniors Together

This month at Millstream we were delighted to welcome our new centre manager Emma Gallagher. Emma comes with many years of experience in caring for the elderly. Emma joins us from Anchor Housing, where she worked as Location Manager looking after 22 properties for seniors. Prior to that Emma worked at Cleeve lodge Care Home in Goring for over 12 years. Here she was Office Manager as well as willingly turning her hand to most jobs, working multiple roles including chef and night porter as well as supporting the customers, and helping them through the covid-19 pandemic. Emma's passions are her family, walking her dogs and gardening. We wish her all the very best in the new role and look forward to drawing on her expertise so that we can carry on improving the Centre for our customers.

This month we are also celebrating a year since we launched our fundraising initiative the Benson Millstream Supporters Club (BMCS) This has been a huge success, and we hope that over the next year we can grow our numbers of supporters. A big thank you to all of you who joined us in our first year and continue to support us. It is a great way to make an annual or one-off donation to the Centre, we have lots of different options including a business membership. If you are a local business who would like to support us, please get in touch via the Centre or donate through our website. We are a small completely self-funded charity, and we really need your help to keep up the good work we do with senior members of our community.

Benson Millstream Centre is open for lunch Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11 - 1.30pm, and for our drop-in coffee morning 'Millstream Mugs' on Tuesdays 10.30 - 12pm. All are welcome. For more information, please email: bensonmillstreamcentre@gmail.com or phone **01491 834889**. You can also find us on Facebook and at bensonmillstreamcentre.org

Our Centre is the perfect place for a party or an event. We have two kitchens and a large adaptable space to meet your needs. The Centre is available for hire in the evenings and at weekends at very competitive prices. Contact us or see our website for more information.

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BENSON'S LOST INNS & PUBS NO:2

THE WHITE HART INN



I'm sure all of us know the building, that lovely white building in Castle Square? Some of us probably know it used to be an inn, but how many of us know what a great history it has and what an important role it once played in Benson's life?

Firstly, what is the significance of the emblem the White Hart? This emblem was the personal badge of King Richard II and dates back to the 14th Century. However, this does not mean the inn dates back

that far, as the first posting inns were only established around 1600 with the inns providing changes of horses for riders or coaches - a post inn did not necessarily mean an involvement with the Royal Mail. The White Hart is however shown on a 1638 map of Benson.

The coaching trade boomed for Benson after the opening of the turnpike road in 1736, with the White Hart being the largest of Benson's inns providing accommodation and stabling on site. From 1754 it was run by John Shrubbs and the family did very well. It is said that in 1822 Sarah Shrubbs ran the White Hart and managed 1,000 acres of and around Benson. By the 1800's the Inn had a large yard surrounded by extensive stables, together with extensive accommodation for guests.

As the other inns in Benson updated their buildings and competition grew, the White Hart also received major modifications in 1840, but already the coach trade was suffering from the competition of the new railways, and coaching inns were on the decline. Over the next 100 years the Hart struggled on as a hotel and pub, but the end came around 1988 when the business was wound up and eventually the building was turned into the domestic housing we see today.

In its day, the White Hart had many illustrious visitors, the Duke of Wellington reportedly changed his horse here, as did King George IV and later the Princess Victoria. It was once the home of the Benson Driving Club, a club formed in 1807 which had a maximum of 25 members elected by ballot, with a £10 admission fee. To qualify, members had to drive the 56 miles from London to Benson twice per year. More information can be found on our website: bensingtonhistory.org

**Dave Rushton,
Bensington History Group,**

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

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



CELEBRATING SWIFT AWARENESS WEEK

These birds are the TopGun “Maverics” of the bird world as they can do almost everything in the air! Swift’s feet and legs aren’t designed for sitting on the floor or a perch. They can perch vertically but they can’t sit like a Robin or pigeon

for example, as their wings are far too long. They are perfectly designed for flight and this means they do everything whilst flying - drinking, eating and even mating! True acrobatic flyers. Swifts have one of the longest migration journeys in the world! Our swifts migrate approximately 14,000 miles to return to our swift boxes in Oxfordshire every year! What a journey - really makes us think of 'Home sweet home'.

The swifts we see in our towns and villages have overwintered in Africa and come back each summer to nest and raise their chicks. Once the chick(s) leave the nest, they’re off - they will never return to the family nest again.

Sadly swifts are endangered and need swift boxes on buildings to nest. Find out more about how you can help them on either the Cherwell swift project website cherwell-swifts.org/

Many people contribute to Wild Oxfordshire, and this support enables us to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all. If you would like to join in and are able to please check out our website to find out more about the many ways you can support us and our recent achievements: wildoxfordshire.org.uk/



**Ewelme
Exhibition
Endowment**

GOVERNOR VACANCY

The Governors of the Ewelme Exhibition Endowment are looking for two new governors. The charity awards bursaries and grants to young people in state and independent education and also supports disadvantaged pupils through grant awards to their schools.

Please see www.ewelme-education-awards.info for more information. Suitable candidates should have a keen interest in education and skills training for young people and be prepared to attend around 6 meetings a year, held in Ewelme, or when or where necessary, join meetings online. If you are interested, please send a CV with a short covering letter by email, marked Governor Vacancy, to the Awards Manager at: Ewelme-exhibition@gmail.com

A BENSON DIARY

**Where my fathers stood
Watching the sea,
Gale-spent herring boats
Hugging the lea;
There my Mother lives,
Moorland and tree.
Sight o' the blossom!
Devon to me!
(John Galsworthy)**

My plan had been to write my piece for this month's bulletin from Devon, where I was for a week, near Dartmouth. Alas, it was not to be. This reflects on me rather than on Devon.

Our first walk of the holiday was along Blackpool Sands, that sandy haven near the village of Street, which often featured on the cover of many a brochure advertising the joys of holidaying in the county. I seem also to recall many of the trains from Paddington later used vintage advertisements extolling the glories of the

English Riviera. Torquay, with its palm trees along the esplanade, proffered a taste of the exotic without the hassle of needing to speak French or Italian. These days it proffers rather less.

Devon reminds me of my time in Exeter teaching history at the University. It's so long ago now it might well be a subject for research or perhaps a novel. I lived in the city for a couple of years. I loved the gardens of the university which were its last remembrance of its previous incarnation as Exeter Arts College and later University College of the South West. Days out with friends, in what seem always in memory's recollection to be eternally sunlit with cloudless skies and cream teas, often ended at the coast near to or in Dartmouth itself.

This year's weather was not at all like those my memory assures me filled the June days of my younger self. It rained a fair bit and was generally cloudy although this didn't seem to matter very much to any of us – least of all our dogs Milo and Finn – who, after the trembling trauma of the car journey, were very much in their element.

We had some wonderful fish and seafood. We adventured a few country houses and ruined castles and even managed Whitsun in Buckfast Abbey – great music – including a Stravinsky Mass. Everywhere was dressed for summer. My goodness there were some wonderful peonies in their last flush and roses everywhere in perfumed glut. We drove to Saltram on the edge of Plymouth where the gardens and park were just amazing. The house is a Robert Adam jewel and the grand salon and library quite breathtaking. The Parker family seem to have specialised in marrying well which explains the lavish nature of the Georgian interiors. Berry Pomeroy Castle was also well worth a visit - a ruined Elizabethan grand manor built by a branch of that Seymour dynasty who notably furnished King Henry VIII with his third wife, Jane.

Getting anywhere in Devon requires a drive and it always feels a high-risk business, with those high hedged roads that twist and turn, and lots of agricultural vehicles buzzing about the narrow lanes at alarming speeds. Still, we all lived to tell the tale.

Whilst we were away, we have had some works done inside the chapel. Consequently, there has been, much book moving and wardrobe emptying. The lifting and carrying has definitely made me feel my age. There is also the inevitable shame of discovering how dusty books can get! Since my return, there's been painting to do, which vividly



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brings back memories of how it was when we first moved to Benson which will be 10 years ago this September. Somehow, climbing ladders with a paint filled tray, doesn't feel to be as easy as once it was.

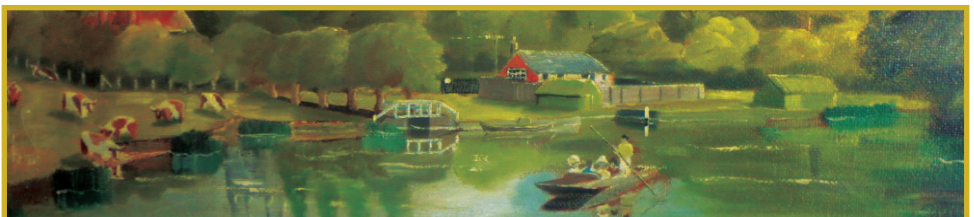
A decade in our village inevitably offers a moment for reflection. Our purchase of the chapel was serendipitous as Benson was most definitely outside the hunting grounds we chose to look at for our escape to the country. However, as it was a search driven less by location, location, location and more by interesting property, the chapel popped up on Zoopla the morning we were setting off to view several properties. The rest as they say is history.

Meanwhile, summer beckons – and Wimbledon, Henley and Garsington come into focus. Opera has been one of my life's enduring passions. It's not everyone's cup of tea I know and indeed it mystifies many of my friends. No one has ever really explained to me why it is such a "class" thing in England but also throughout the Anglo world. My mum and dad were born into the poverty that was Ireland in the 1920s which was further reduced by the aftermath of the Civil War. But they had an almost Italian fondness for music and poetry. When they were born Puccini had only just died, leaving the unfinished masterpiece that's Turandot with the (in)famous tenor aria Nessun Dorma. Toscanini famously conducted its first performance and a little after the end of that aria in Act II he set down his baton and turned to the audience saying: *"and here the maestro put down his pen"*. Therefore, the rest of the opera is improvised from notes Puccini left, and music heard earlier in the opera. Unfinished business is music's gracenote. Mozart's Requiem is another example it would be hard to live without and indeed Schubert's 8th Symphony bears the very title "unfinished" much as Beethoven only left sketches of his 10th.

For all of us music is a life-defining business Therefore, the death of Brian Wilson, of Beachboys fame, feels as if I've lost a part of my own life. His songs, their sound, were such a living part of my growing up. I know many of you think poetry - like opera – isn't for me – forgetting that those songs we love, and which play such a part in our lives are only poetry in motion. Brian Wilson's life was not without its challenges, and he lived in a time when poor mental health was treated with the horror of leprosy. And sadly, so little has changed in the intervening half century. That said, who would want a world without his words and music?

John Murphy

**"I may not always love you
But long as there are stars above you
You never need to doubt it
I'll make you so sure about it
God only knows what I'd be without you
If you should ever leave me
Though life would still go on believe me
The world could show nothing to me
So what good would living do me
God only knows what I'd be without you."
(©Brian Wilson)**



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A HIVE OF ACTIVITY

There's still plenty going on at BANG with many volunteering activities. Following previous efforts to remove and tidy the pendulous sedge from the Cuckoo Pen, there is now a dead hedge, alongside the allotments, providing additional wildlife habitat. During May, work continued with a dead hedge, cutting some hazel from Millbrook Mead, transporting material from there, digging out pendulous sedge and clearing round trees at the allotment entrance. Our thanks to the Green Gym for their help with this work.

In addition, members of BANG, worked with parents, staff and children to create an area to improve nature in the grounds of Benson School. Classes, named after native trees, (Apple, Cherry, Maple, Sycamore, Ash, Hawthorn, Damson, Oak, Beech and Elm) prepared raised beds, planted seeds, watered them and added some chalk artwork. Parents and local organisations contributed topsoil, seeds, plants and provided advice. A brilliant community effort and a great start to the project.

On 18th May, a family Nature Day was held in Berrick with activities for all ages, including moth identification, a children's bug hunt, wildflower planting, an outdoor picnic, a skull identification quiz and owl pellet dissection.

We held an evening walk and talk around Cow Common in Ewelme led by Andrew Walker and Imogen Parker. Did you know it used to have a golf course? Apparently, it boasted a 9-hole golf course at the far end in the early 1900s, but there's no sign of it now.

The common is the largest in the Chilterns that still has grazing cattle. In the early days, it stretched across what is now the playing field. There was no water trough to begin with, so cattle were walked to the village each day. There were few trees round the borders and only when it was fenced in 1960 did the trees seed from birds and wind. Recently we've planted some hedgerows, one along the car park, with a mixture of native trees.

As it has not been heavily fertilised or treated with chemicals there are various grasses, blue germander speedwell, the rare meadow saxifrage and swathes of buttercups. We are surveying the plants regularly, to provide a baseline for future care of the common.

BANG helped out at St Helen's Great Big Green Week event on 7th June. The moth trap revealed a range of beautiful moths that had been caught overnight in the churchyard. We also provided a demo of scything as well as some wildflower and butterfly spotting.

The range of wildlife observations posted by members on social media bear witness to the variety of wildlife in our patch. Summer visitors including cuckoo, hobbies, swallows and blackcap plus cygnets hitching a ride on a swan. And many beautiful insects - azure damselfly, banded demoiselle, dragonflies and mayflies. There was a sighting of a brown hare, a roe deer near Berinsfield and a hedgehog on Aldrige Triangle.

Our website has more detail or e-mail bensonareanature@yahoo.com if our volunteering opportunities appeal.

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WORLD CONSERVATION DAY – 28TH JULY

Annual World Conservation Day is a great reason to join your local nature group and see how you could help create space for nature in your area. Check out our map to find the group closest to you: wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/community-groups

BENSON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

On May 23rd we completed a whole school 5K Race for Life run to raise crucial funds for Cancer Research. This was our fifth such event. Over 300 children plus all the staff and many volunteer parents took part, starting with everyone doing a warm up on the school playground, led by our lovely year six sports leaders. It was a sight to behold as everyone was wearing pink T-shirts and were so excited for the challenge! Due to the current roadworks on Hale Road, and with the safety of the children in mind, this year our younger children completed 16.5 laps of the new school field on the Cala development - equivalent to 5k - whilst the older ones ran the usual route to Warborough and back, across the fields.

With the help of parents and volunteers, and the workmen on the building site, we ran and walked the whole route together, helping and encouraging each other, collecting sticker rewards along the way. The finish line was back at the school playground, where finished runners clapped and cheered as their friends also completed the challenge and collected their medals!

At the time of writing, our sponsorship money has raised over £11,000 (including Gift Aid), an extraordinary achievement. Our initial target was £5,000, but when the children saw, in assembly that morning, that we had already exceeded this, we raised the goal to £10,000, never imagining that we would exceed that too!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who donated and supported not just our children but the vital work being carried out by Cancer Research, and we congratulate our children for their fortitude, energy, commitment, sense of fun and resilience - you are truly amazing, and show what we at Benson are about!

The total amount now raised by Benson CE Primary School across our 5 Race for Life 5k events has reached over £35,000. Thank you so much everyone!

Tania Hadfield
Sports Coordinator

CHOLSEY REPAIR CAFÉ

The next bi-monthly session of Cholsey Repair Café will be held on Saturday 19th July at the Cholsey Pavilion, with doors open between 10.00 and 12.45. The usual wide range of repair assistance will be available from skilled fixers. Special services may include clock- and furniture repairs, replacing watch batteries and ultrasonic cleaning, although it's advisable to contact the organisers beforehand if you need this kind of help. As ever, repair assistance and advice are given free but parts must be paid for and a modest donation towards running costs is always appreciated. The Cholsey Community Café will be right next door to serve refreshments. For more information, check cholseyrepaircafe.com or email repaircafe@cholsey.com

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SODC UPDATE



**Andrea Powell
&
Sue Cooper**



NEW COUNCILS PROPOSED FOR OXFORDSHIRE – HAVE YOUR SAY!

We've previously written about the Government's plans to restructure and reorganise local government, primarily involving the abolition of so-called "Two Tier" authorities and replacing them with larger Unitary Authorities. This programme is moving ahead with several parts of the country now getting closer to agreeing new structures and planning for elections to these new Councils. Although Oxfordshire is NOT in the priority programme, we are not far behind and all of the councils across the area have been working together to flesh out proposals for how local government could work here.

Although there is no legal requirement for public consultation, SODC has decided to carry out a six-week exercise to get the views of as many local residents as possible and in order to help shape the final proposal. This is being done in partnership with councils in Vale of White Horse, Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, since these bodies also support the Two Council model for Oxfordshire. As a reminder, the County Council is championing a "One Oxfordshire" approach while Oxford City has proposed a "Greater Oxford" alongside smaller Unitaries for the rest of the county.



The Two Council model proposes two new authorities – Oxford & Shires and Ridgeway – and we here in Benson and surrounding villages would be part of Ridgeway. This new Council would combine the current geographies of SODC, Vale and West Berks; these three areas have much in common including a mix of market towns and rural communities, similar demographics and employment types

and a shared interest in the protection of our natural assets.

If you would like to give your views on this new proposed structure, the online survey will be open until 16th July at twocouncils.org – paper versions of the form are also available on request. More information about the proposed Ridgeway Council can also be found at ridgewaycouncil.org.

CAPITAL GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM SODC

The next Capital Grant scheme is now open for applications. There is a total budget available of £320,000 to award for capital projects that take place in the district or within a three-mile radius of the district boundary. You can request a minimum of £5,000 and a maximum of £75,000 but no more than 50 per cent of your total



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project cost. Your total project cost must be at least £10,000 but no set maximum cost. Applications should focus on projects that benefit significant numbers of South Oxfordshire residents, or that that will improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups and contribute towards at least one of the priorities from The Way Ahead: Council Plan 2025-2029. For details on how to apply for a grant, visit southoxon.gov.uk/grants.

POLITICAL CHANGES AT SODC

Cllr Katharine Keats-Rohan is now Chair and Cllr Andrea Powell is our Vice Chair. At the annual meeting of SODC in May it was announced that the formal partnership between the Liberal Democrat Group and the Green Group in forming the administration will cease. The partnership was formed after the elections of 2019, when no party had a majority on the council, and continued through choice after the election in 2023, even though the LibDems then held the majority of seats on the Council. They have voted to dissolve the partnership so the Greens become the official opposition as the second largest group. We are proud of what we have achieved together: we have championed sustainability, improved local services, turned around the council's finances, and pioneered a more open and collaborative way of working.

NETTLEBED ART AND CRAFT SHOW

Our 2024 show was very successful. We displayed 160 paintings, the work of 55 local artists, in a wide variety of media. We were very pleased to sell 21 of these. Local craftspeople sold items including jewellery, stained glass items, mosaics, lamps, needlework, woodturning, cards and ceramics. We sold unframed paintings too. We divided our proceeds of £1800 between seven local charities.

Please come and visit our 2025 show which is being held on 2nd and 3rd August at Nettlebed School Community Hall. Open 11-6 on Saturday & 10-4.30 on Sunday with free entry. If you are interested in exhibiting or would like a craft table, please email: nettlebedas@gmail.com and ask for an entry form.

BENSON COMMUNITY SHED "LIVE"

Come and join us at Benson's Community Shed.

As we move into the next phase of our development, come along and see us and find out what we are all about.

We will be in the Canon's Room behind St Helen's Church from 1000-1300 on Saturday 19th July, the kettle will be on, and we'd love to see you. Members will be working on some of their individual Shed projects - cloisonne, model trains, spoon carving, bird boxes, furniture restoration etc. You will find a friendly welcoming group, who will happily talk about the crafts we are working on, and share skills with others. We'd also love to tell you about some of the projects we have been involved with in and around the Village. Or just come and join us for a cuppa - for us the kettle and the teapot are as important as the projects and the tools - the welcome and the conversation as important as the making and doing. Hope to see you there.

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THE BENSON WI



The usual venue in the Parish Hall was unavailable to us in May so we were very grateful to the staff at Benson House for being able to accommodate us on this occasion. Some lovely refreshments were also provided so thank you George and team.

Our speaker for the afternoon was local Earth Trust volunteer and Trustee Terry Hurley. His presentation included a talk with slides about how the Trust was set up and the support it gives locally to initiatives such as at North Farm, Shillingford with its 'Step Farm' programme. One of its objectives is conservation and the Trust is instrumental in creating new habitats. The Trust looks after the largest accessible green space in South Oxfordshire and although

there are a small number of paid staff, it relies heavily on volunteers. Spaces being looked after by the Trust, for example, include Little Wittenham Nature Reserve and Wallingford Castle Meadows. The Trust runs a number of educational workshops and events and many cater for children. The aim of the Earth Trust is to champion accessible natural green spaces for everyone and to bring people closer to their environment.

Green issues have always at the forefront of WI campaigning so at our meeting there was a display of material destined for our participation in Benson's Big Green Week event on 7th June. Also in June, the National Federation held its Annual Meeting, this time on Zoom with Emma Bridgewater and Angel Strawbridge as guest speakers. Many Oxfordshire WIs held 'Watch Parties' for this and there are photos and reports on their Facebook page.

During July the OFWI will run trips to the National Arboretum and the Royal Academy of Arts and bookings are now being taken for the next WI holiday to see the Blackpool Illuminations in November. All booking details can be viewed via the OFWI website.

The next Benson meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd July when one of our Committee will host our annual Summer Garden Party. No speaker at this meeting but a chance for a lovely social get-together over summer punch and some tasty 'bring and share' refreshments. Benson WI will not meet in August but for September, we will be back in Benson Parish Hall. Visitors are very welcome (£5) but please contact the Secretary on 07789303905 or at bensonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk to check details.

Sue Brown

FROM ST HELEN'S ECOCHURCH GROUP

Did you know that the contents from your food waste bin is separated from the food waste bags before being made into fertilizer. The food waste produces gases which are used to provide electricity to the National Grid – enough is produced to serve 4,200 houses. The waste itself is 'digested' in the big green units (which we can see from the road) becomes fertilizer for farmers fields.

The food waste bags from our bins are extracted in the first process and were being sent to landfill but the recycle centre is now looking at ways to reuse them as blocks for use in wood burning fires - even more reason for us to put our waste into the green waste bags rather than plastic bags.

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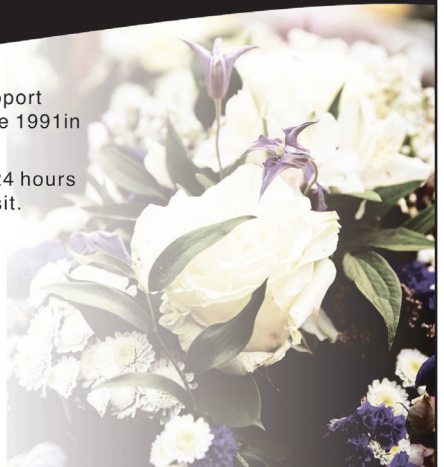
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KEEPING BENSON BEAUTIFUL

We're pleased to announce that Darren from our grounds team is now a trained FixMyStreet Super User! This means that, within certain guidelines, Darren can now raise work orders directly with Oxfordshire County Council for pothole repairs (excluding main roads), kerbing fixes, and blocked drains or gullies. This should help Benson get some issues sorted more quickly.

At this time of year, hedges tend to grow rapidly, often blocking footpaths or overhanging into walkways. Please keep your perimeter in check bearing in mind it is nesting season so avoid trimming hedges and other possible nesting sites until September. If the hedge isn't privately owned, it's usually the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council's Highways Department - not the Parish Council - and should be reported via FixMyStreet. That said, if it's a quick and easy job, our grounds team will trim back vegetation when they come across it during their rounds. To help us stay on top of footpath maintenance, we're looking to appoint a Footpath Warden—a role that works well in other parishes. If you enjoy being outdoors, perhaps while walking your dog, and would like to help keep an eye on our many footpaths, please get in touch at comms@bensonpc.org.uk.

We're also nearly ready to launch a regular litter-picking group: the **Benson Litter Bugs!** The plan is to meet once a month to help keep the village tidy. The group will be coordinated via WhatsApp—if you'd like to join, please email us at comms@bensonpc.org.uk.

In the meantime, why not try the “**Grab a Bag**” approach? Just take a spare bag with you when you go out, fill it with any litter you find, and snap a photo of yourself with the full bag. Send it to us at comms@bensonpc.org.uk, and we'll share it to inspire others!

Unfortunately, dog fouling remains an issue in public areas. Please pick up after your dog, and report anyone who doesn't. If you're caught on our CCTV not cleaning up, we will report you to SODC who can issue fixed penalty notices and fines.

Let's all take pride in our village—come on, Benson, let's keep it beautiful!

Just to forewarn you there will be some road closures over the summer and we will post details of them as soon as we know about them – you can keep up to date by visiting one.network.

WALLINGFORD AND DISTRICT ART CLUB

Join our friendly club for a live demo at Centre 70 from 7.30pm-9.30pm on Tuesday 15 July, where artist Robin Danely will be painting a portrait in oils. Robin is an American artist who has been living and working in Oxford since 2014. She is motivated by a love of the paint itself, and aims to bring subjects to life through dynamic brushwork and bold colours. The meeting is free for club members and £5 for visitors. If you would like further information about this event or other club activities, please visit the club website at wallingfordartclub.org.uk or email admin@wallingfordartclub.org.uk



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BENSON COMMUNITY GARDENS



July: *“The bud stands for all things, even those things that don't flower.... Sometimes it is necessary to reteach a thing its loveliness... until it flowers again from within of self-blessing”* (Galway Kinnell)

A garden is one of the best ways to reconnect with our own loveliness and find our own flowering through the plants that grow there. The community allotment is one such place where we grow together in a rhythm of community. Our new table and benches are there to welcome you.

The flowers are blooming, and you are welcome to pick a few – there is something special about a wild bunch of flowers. The orange calendulas mix well with the blue nigella and some cornflowers. We had a stand in June at the Big Green Week event in Benson and tied bunches of herbs and others of flowers. I have always loved flowers and was in my flow sitting on the grass making up posies of herbs and flowers to give away.

The allotment is beginning to produce kale and strawberries too. All the vegetables we grow are of the ‘pick and come again’ sort. The idea is that you can pick a few leaves or fruit and have them freshly cooked. There are herbs in the trough and others in pots. They are there for the community to enjoy and remember the loveliness of the earth and all it provides. There are sweet peas growing up the archway and beans climbing up their supports.

We have a ‘no-dig’ approach to the garden, where we have layered compost and wood chips until it forms a soft humus rich soil. It makes it so easy to plant out the vegetables and helps to retain the moisture. Please come down and see what’s going on and enjoy a picnic or just relax with nature while on a walk.

We always welcome anyone who would like to be more actively involved in the space and come to do a little weeding or watering. You can get in touch with us at benсонcommunitygardens@gmail.com.

Bridgid Hess

CORN EXCHANGE - WALLINGFORD

CINEMA

Regular performances start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. NB: we start on time and latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room. The bar and auditorium are open from 7pm. Films with subtitles are shown on Wednesday and Saturday at 2:30pm. Please see the website cornexchange.org.uk for updates. Tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

CINEMA JULY:

1st, **The Road to Patagonia** (15) 3rd, 2pm & 7:30pm, **Ocean** (PG) 4th, 5th, & Sun July 20th **Hallow Road** (15) 21st, 22nd, **Jane Austen Wrecked my Life** (15) 24th, **The Salt Path** (12A) 25th, 30th, 31st, **F1** (12A) 26th, 27th, **Four Letters of Love** 28th, 29th, **Lilo & Stitch** (U)

Continued overleaf...



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LIVE SCREENING:

2nd 7pm, **42nd Street** (PG) Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

23rd, 7pm, **An American in Paris** (PG) Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

LIVE ON STAGE:

July 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19, 7:30pm, Matinee 19th, 2:30pm **You Never Can Tell** by George Bernard Shaw, performed by the **Sinodun Players**. Tickets £12 (July 15, July 19 matinee), £15 (all other performances)

JOHN WARBURTON RETIRES



John Warburton (left) presented with memento by David Simmons

On Saturday 31 May, around 100 people gathered to celebrate the retirement of Wallingford resident, John Warburton, after over 55 years' service to the Corn Exchange. The afternoon started with a screening of the film, *Easy Virtue*, where John made a brief appearance (one of over 200 films he was in as an extra). Following this, there was a drinks party where John was honoured by Corn Exchange Chair, Gloria Wright, and presented with several gifts, including signs for the newly appointed Warburton Room, a 'golden ticket' for lifetime cinema screenings, a book of archive photos, and a framed memento highlighting his contribution.

In her speech, Gloria noted that John first joined the Sinodun Players in 1970 for that year's pantomime *Cinderella*. Since then, he has appeared in 30 or more productions for the SP's. She outlined how significant his efforts had been in making the Corn Exchange the success it is today, starting in 1975, when John was behind the fund-raising appeal to buy the current building, and was heavily involved in obtaining Planning & Listed Building consent, with conversion work beginning in early 1976.

Since then, John has undertaken fund-raising for a building extension in 1980, purchase of a sound system in 1986 and a digital projection system in 2012. Apart from this, John was Corn Exchange General Manager from 1980 -2001, a Trustee for nine years, newsletter editor for 15 years and Cinema Manager, responsible for all film bookings, from 1995 to 2025.

Ending her presentation, Gloria said: *"What can I say that would possibly sum up the incalculable contribution that John Warburton has made to the Corn Exchange? Well, in 2015, news of his remarkable work reached Downing Street and in the New Year's Honours List he was awarded the British Empire Medal for 'Services to the Arts in Oxfordshire through the Corn Exchange Wallingford'. This is a very fitting accolade to his many achievements, for which we are truly grateful"*.

BENSON LIBRARY

REGULAR EVENTS

Rhymetime: 1st and 2nd Tuesday plus last 2 Fridays of the month

10am -10.30am followed by coffee morning

Knit and Natter: 2pm - 4pm 1st Tuesday of the month

Carers Coffee Morning: 10.30am - 12 noon 1st Thursday of the month

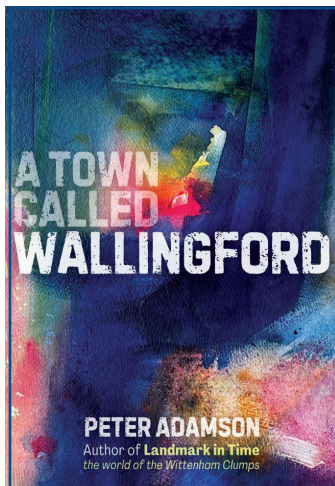
Family History Group: 6pm - 7pm 2nd Thursday of the month

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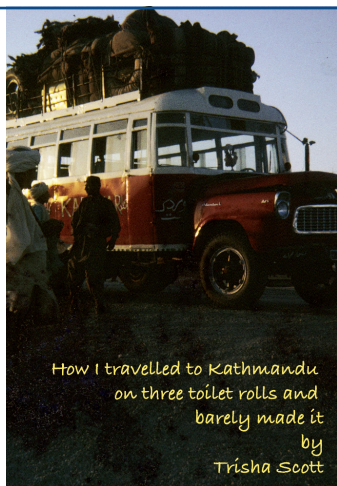
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Two local authors have new books out. Peter Adamson's can be purchased from peteradamsowriting.com

Trisha Scott's book can be found in Derry's Den and the Ewelme Village Store all profits for her book go to the World Cancer Research Fund.

Both books are available at the Wallingford Bookshop.



How I travelled to Kathmandu on three toilet rolls and barely made it by Trisha Scott



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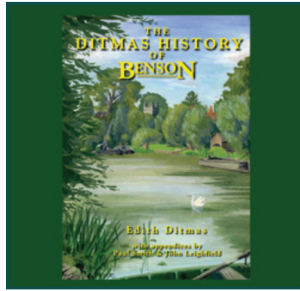
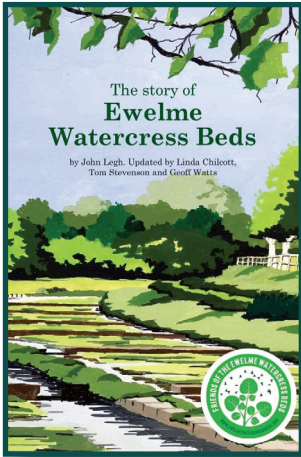
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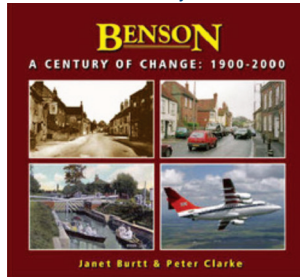
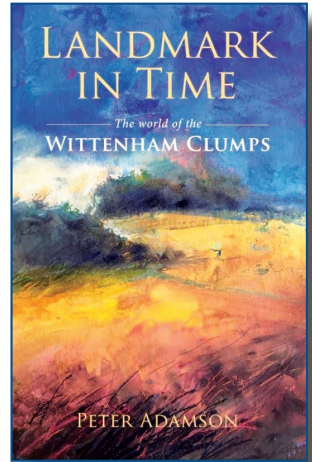
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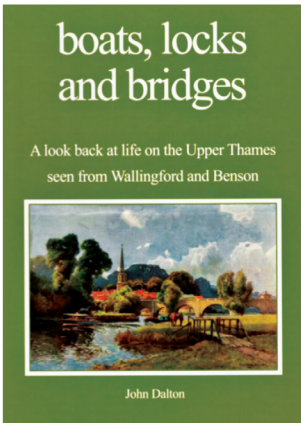
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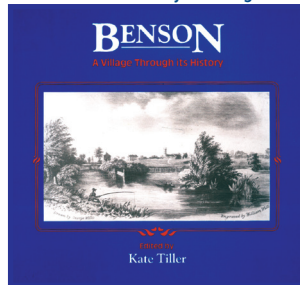
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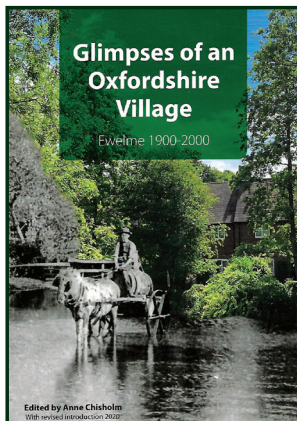
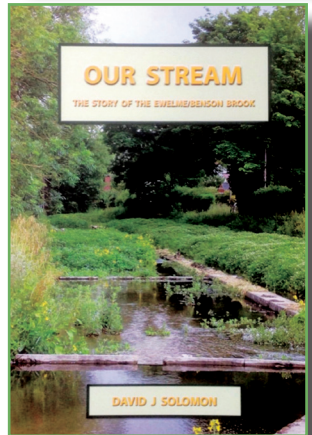
Benson A Century of Change



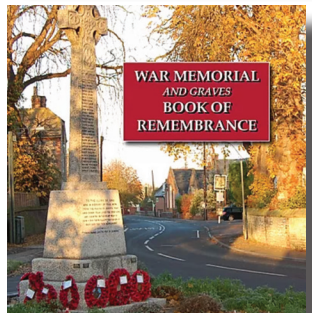
A look back at life on the Upper Thames seen from Wallingford and Benson



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"Landmark in Time" is available at Wallingford Bookshop on Amazon and from peteradamsonwriting.com

VILLAGE INFORMATION

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BENSON LIBRARY: Opening Times: Mon 2pm - 6pm / Tues 9 - 12.30pm & 2pm - 5pm / Thurs 2pm - 7pm / Fri 9 -12.30pm & 2pm - 5pm / Sat 9.30 -12.30.

BENSON MILLSTREAM CENTRE: open Mon, Wed, Fri 11.30-1.30pm for lunch, drop in coffee morning 'Millstream Mugs' Tuesdays 11-12pm. Hire of the centre for events contact bensonmillstreamcentre@gmail.com or phone 01491 834889.

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CHURCH INFORMATION

ST HELEN'S : Rev Dr Patrick Gilday: rector@bensonandewelmechurches.co.uk - 01491 838535 / Rev Marion Harrison: marion.harrison@bensonandewelmechurches.co.uk; 07555 352796 bensonandewelmechurches.co.uk / sthelensevents@bensonandewelmechurches.co.uk

ST BIRINUS (CATHOLIC); DORCHESTER Fr. John Osman: 01865 340417.

ST HELEN'S BERRICK SALOME Fr Michael Lakey / Churchwarden: 01865 890915.

ST. LAWRENCE: WARBOROUGH: revmelstanley@gmail.com 07891 050851

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JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

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EVERY WEDNESDAY - COMMUNITY WALK 10am Parish Hall

EVERY 1st THURSDAY OF MONTH Carers Coffee Morning: 10.30am - 12 - Library

JULY

2/ Butterfly Walk Howberry Park

14/ Open Gardens Berrick oke 2 - 5.30

4 - 5/ Benson Art Group Millstream Centre

15/ Wallingford and District Art Club 7.30 Centre 70

19/ Benson Shed Live Canon's Room 10am -1pm

19/ Cholsey Repair Cafe Cholsey Pavilion 10 -12.45

20/ Benson Antique Fair Parish Hall 9 - 3

23/ Benson WI - Summer Garden Party

23/ Meet The Bees Howberry Park

28/ World Conservation Day

AUGUST

2 -3/ Nettlebed Art & Craft Show Nettlebed School Community Hall

17/ Benson Antique Fair Parish Hall 9 - 3

25/ Ewelme Village Show from 2pm



Please send all Diary information to Lesley at:

diary@bensonbulletin.co.uk and copy to bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk

For FULL DETAILS Of Upcoming Events Please Go To:

bensonbulletin.co.uk - "Village Information/Events"

About The Benson Bulletin

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