

BACS

Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society

Newsletter

September 2004 No. 45

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Walk – Sunday 26th September at 2pm. (CONFIRMED DATE)
Exhibition Wine and Cheese Evening – Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm
Clean Up Benenden Day – Saturday 6th November, from 9am.
AGM – Wednesday 9th February 2005, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The new 'Brown Bin' refuse collection scheme:

A team of Borough Council Officers, lead by Julie Mellor, Head of Client Services, held a public meeting earlier this month in the Memorial Hall, at which they briefed villagers on the details of the new "Brown Bin" waste recycling scheme, due to be introduced in Benenden by the end of September. The Brown bins should be used for all garden and compostable waste, and will be collected once every fortnight, on the same day as the paper and card collection. Your normal green wheelie bins will then only be collected on the intervening weeks.

The Brown Bins will be delivered to households in the week commencing 20th September, with the first collection on 27th. Collection details will be delivered with the bins. Not all of Benenden will be covered at first; the current phase is limited to the main part of the village between New Pond Road and Pullington. Other parts, including Iden Green, will be covered in a later phase. All households covered in the current phase have received an initial leaflet from the Borough Council.

It was stressed that the scheme was not an attempt by the Borough to save money but was designed to separate out the waste that could be recycled and reduce the amount going to landfill. In other areas in the Borough, where they had already been introduced, the amount going to landfill had been reduced by 45%.

The Officers answered questions covering a range of issues. Many villagers were concerned by the lack of glass and can recycling facilities in the village. The Borough Council would provide these facilities, but the difficulty in finding a suitable site was explained. The Borough Councillors present undertook to discuss this further with Parish Council.

If any problems are encountered with the new regime, Council officers will accompany the first few collections, or villagers can ring the Council on 01892 526121 or e-mail info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Benenden Exhibition:

There are still a few tickets available for the private viewing of the Benenden Village Exhibition at Cranbrook Museum on Thursday 7 October at 7.30 pm. Wine and cheese will be served. Please park in the Jockey Lane Car Park. As numbers are strictly controlled by the Museum, it is by pre-booked entry only. Tickets are available beforehand from Dick Hill on 240517.

Autumn Walk:

The Autumn walk is now on Sunday 26 September, and not the October date which was published in the last newsletter. The walk will be leaving at 2pm from the Rye Harbour large car park, to the right of the caravan park. We shall be walking through the Nature Reserve, up to Camber Castle, with a shorter walk along the sea front for those preferring a different route.

Some may like to take a pub lunch at the Inkerman Arms, on Rye Harbour Road, which can be contacted on 01797 222464. Their fish is good and it is essential to book beforehand, as space is limited. You could say that you are with the Benenden group. There are no catering facilities in the Car Park, but you might like to bring along your own tea. For further details, please contact Alan Milne on 240819.

Clean Up Day:

Everyone is invited to help out in the Autumn Clean Up Benenden Day, which will be held on Saturday 6th November. We shall be helping the Parish Council to clean up the major roads within the parish, as well as the Village Green and Glebe Field. Volunteers should meet outside the Village Hall at 9.00am. Rubbish sacks will be provided, but volunteers may wish to bring their own gloves.

Subscriptions:

Membership this year remains at £2 for an individual and £5 for a family. Alternatively, you can purchase a life membership for a flat rate of £50. Subscriptions are due on the 1st January every year. If you have not yet paid for this year's membership, please contact David Grief, who will send you a renewal form.

Alternatively, you can print an application form on the BACS website, which can be found at www.benendenvillage.org.uk. You can also discover the origins and objectives of the society on this site, as well as read about upcoming BACS events.

We are currently trying to increase our membership. If you know of anyone who may like to join BACS, please contact David Grief, who will ensure a form is sent. Perhaps you can encourage friends and neighbours to join. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, which contains details of events being organised by BACS, and items of local interest from around the parish.

Amenity Refuse Collection:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council organises the schedule for amenity refuse vehicle, which visits the Parish for three hours every fortnight, on a Saturday morning. For your information, the dates and venues of this service for the next three months, are printed below. The vehicle is accessible from 8am until 11am, and this is the same every fortnight.

September	October	November
Sat 11 th – Benenden Village Hall Sat 25 th – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 9 th – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 23 rd – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 6 th – Benenden Village Hall Sat 20 th – Iden Green Crossroads

Planning Matters:

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Ernie Pollard is responsible for monitoring all planning applications. BACS has also now created a new planning sub-committee, which will examine plans and sites and submit the Committee's view, where an application may be contentious. A summary of planning applications can be found on the Parish noticeboard in the village centre, and details can be seen at the Borough Council Offices in Cranbrook. If you would like to discuss any planning application with the society, please contact Ernie Pollard.

Your committee:

Full details of your committee are printed below. If you have any questions regarding subscriptions, please contact David Grief. If you have questions or concerns regarding planning matters, please contact Ernie Pollard. If you would like to comment on the newsletter, contribute an article, or if you would like to receive it by email, your contact is William Davies. For any other questions about BACS, please contact the Chairman, Alan Milne.

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The Benenden Home Guard, 1940:

This is the second Home Guard extract, taken from a record of the talks given by Collingwood Ingram (of The Grange, now Collingwood Grange), who was the local commander of the Home Guard. The first meeting, which featured in the April newsletter, was on 23rd May, 1940. Below are the records of Collingwood Ingram's talk at the next two meetings meeting, which took place in June the same year, at a time when invasion was expected daily. This is not the full record and where sections have been omitted this is indicated by

Once again, we are extremely grateful to Ernie Pollard for researching the topic and compiling this article.

16th June 1940

ALARM TOCSIN

Arrangements have been made to ring the church bells in the event of an enemy landing. The bells will continue to ring for 15 minutes, All men - & especially those in possession of a rifle or shot-gun - should ask their neighbours to assist them in answering this imperative call to duty. It is conceivable that those living at some distance from the church may not be immediately awakened by the bells: it is these, in particular, that should enlist the aid of their friends to call them. As soon as the warning is heard all men - whether armed or not - should proceed as quickly as possible (preferably on bicycles or in cars) to the Memorial Hall, where they will receive instructions. Illustrations of uniforms and equipment of enemy Parachutists have been put up in Benenden Post Office

Recognition signals used by our aircraft.

These are changed twice daily. They are usually a combination of two stars. The colours used are Red, Green & Yellow.

20th June 1940

As you all know the recognised signal of enemy landing will be ringing of the church bell. This will only be rung if the landing is in the immediate vicinity. The ringing of bells in neighbouring parishes will not be repeated [here] unless it is known that this parish is threatened.

Section Leaders are to make sure that their own men know:

1. What the alarm signal is and what action they are to take on hearing it?

Answer Church bells - rally immediately

2. What is the rendezvous

Answer Benenden Vicarage Stable Yard This will have the protection of a high wall and has been chosen for that reason instead of in front of the Memorial Hall as previously state.

3. Intercommunication

Answer (1) In the first instance an attempt should be made to telephone to Captain Ingram, Ben 2115 (This cancels the order to ring up 3196 - Major Uloth is leaving Benenden) (2) In the event of telephonic interruption the reporter should proceed by car or bicycle to The Grange, Benenden. (3) In the absence of Captain Ingram (but only if an enemy landing has been observed) the Reporter will go to the Vicarage where Mr Yearsley will receive the report and authorize the ringing of the church bells. (4) The Reporter will then immediately return to the Grange and use Captain Ingram's telephone (which will not be cut by the authorities in an emergency) and communicate with the Police 4/2222.

4. Which roads are to be blocked?

Answer Three of the Benenden Cross Roads – (a) The road leading to Cranbrook (b) The road leading to Rolvenden (c) The road leading to Sissinghurst

Who is to give the order?

Answer Captain Ingram

Is the material prepared and who is to carry out the work?

Answer Yes. The guard on duty - by placing the "knife-rest" obstacles and filled drums in position and by placing the barbed wire (which is already attached at one side) diagonally across the highways.

5. Defence Has a scheme been worked out for defence?

Answer Reinforcements will man the building of St George's Club to defend the Road Blocks at the Cross Roads.

6. Casualties Have arrangements been made for looking after the wounded?

Answer There is first aid equipment at each Post. A Casualty Clearing Station is at Dr. Cole's house, Walkhurst Lane.

7. Where is the nearest Military Detachment? How is the information to be passed to them?

Answer Staplehurst - by telephone if possible N^o 487328. If not, by car or motor bicycle.