

BACS

Newsletter February 2008 No. 57

Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society

Dates for your Diary:

AGM – Thursday 13th March 2008, 7.30pm
Dawn Chorus Walk – Sunday 18th May, 5am
Early Summer Walk – Sunday 8th June (PROVISIONAL)
Union Windmill Tour – Monday 22nd September

AGM:

The 2008 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Thursday 13th March, beginning at 7.30pm. The agenda is attached to this newsletter. As part of the meeting, members will be asked to consider and approve the revised constitution of the society. A copy of this is also attached to the newsletter.

After the formal part of the meeting, Ernie Pollard will talk to members about history of the Great Benenden Steeple. At the end of 1672, a great storm swept across England. Ernie Pollard uses the words of a man of the time to describe the catastrophic effects of the storm on the remarkable great Benenden steeple. Ernie's talk will be illustrated and take us through an important event in the village's history, some 336 years ago, and which changed the look of Benenden forever.

After the meeting, everyone will be welcome to stay and relax over wine and snacks.

Dawn Chorus Walk:

Following the success of last years event, another Dawn Chorus Walk will take place on Sunday 18th May. We will meet in the Sissinghurst Castle car park at 4.45am. As last year, we will be lead by Stephen Message, professional artist and ornithologist. The walk will take place whatever the weather and breakfast, for those who survive it, all will be at Somers. Obviously no dogs are allowed, but do remember to bring along your binoculars.

Numbers will be limited. So if you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk.

More events for 2008:

Instead of the usual Spring Walk, an early Summer Walk has been provisionally arranged for Sunday 8th June, beginning at the usual time of 2.30pm.

Also planned for 2008 is an organised event at the Union Windmill in Cranbrook. This has been arranged for Monday 22nd September.

Look out for more details on both events in the next newsletter.

Planning Matters:

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Natalie Blakemore is responsible for monitoring all planning applications, which are then discussed at BACS committee meetings.

A summary of planning applications can be found on the Parish noticeboard in the village centre, and details can be found on-line at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk. Alternatively, planning applications may be viewed at the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells or at the Weald Information Centre in Cranbrook. Please contact the Borough Council on 01892 526121 or info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk for further information.

If you have any concerns about a planning application near you, please contact a committee member who will be able to raise your concerns at the next committee meeting.

Subscriptions:

The subscription for 2008 is £3 for an individual or £5 for a family. Alternatively, you can pay £50 for life 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.

February	March	April
Sat 9 th - Iden Green Crossroads Sat 23 rd - Cherryfields, Benenden	Sat 8 th - Iden Green Crossroads Sat 22 nd - Benenden Village Hall	Sat 5 th - Iden Green Crossroads Sat 19 th - Cherryfields, Benenden

Your committee:

Alan Milne – Chairman

Somers, Mounts Hill, Benenden, TN17 4ET
Tel: 240819 Fax: 241109, Email: alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk

Dick Hill – Treasurer

Columbanus, Off Standen Street, Iden Green, TN17 4HR
Tel: 240517

Angela Lloyd-Jones – Secretary

West Winds, Cranbrook Road, Benenden, TN17 4EU
Tel: 240354 Fax: 243064, Email: angela136@btinternet.com

David Grief – Membership

Crit Hall, Cranbrook Road, Benenden, TN17 4EU
Tel: 241772 Fax: 240772, Email: david@grief.co.uk

Natalie Blakemore – Planning

2 Hortons Close, Benenden, TN17 4LF
Tel: 243118, Email: nattib@tiscali.co.uk

Roger Lake – Parish Council Rep.

Benenden Barn, The Street, Benenden, TN17 4BZ
Tel: 241605

Gill Snow - Publicity

Orchards, Mounts Hill, Benenden, TN17 4ET
Tel: 240493, Email: grsnow@hotmail.co.uk

William Davies - Newsletter

Weald House, Iden Green, TN17 4HH
Tel/Fax: 240723, Email: wgd@wealdhouse.co.uk

BENENDEN AMENITY AND COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY
AGENDA FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TO BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BENENDEN
AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2008

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 19th AGM held on 7 March 2007
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's report for the year ended 31 December 2007
5. Mr. Dick Hill (Hon. Treasurer) to present the audited accounts of the Society for year ended 31 December 2007.
6. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007
7. The following officers retire and offer themselves for re-election:
Chairman: Mr. Alan Milne
Hon Secretary: Mrs. Angela Lloyd-Jones
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Dick Hill
8. The following committee members retire and offer themselves for re-election:
Mrs Gill Snow, Ms Natalie Blakemore and Messrs. David Grief, Roger Lake and William Davies.
9. To approve the election of Vice Presidents
10. Special Business: to consider and if thought fit approve the revised Constitution of the Society, as circulated.
11. To consider any other relevant business of which proper notice has been given.

BENENDEN AMENITY COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

(to be considered at the AGM on 13 March 2008)

1 NAME

The name of the Society shall be the Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society ("the Society").

2 OBJECTS

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising the Parish of Benenden which area shall hereinafter be referred to as "the Parish".

- (i) To encourage amenity and countryside activities and interests in order to promote a fuller appreciation of the geography, history, natural history and environment of the Parish and the Weald of Kent.
- (ii) To resist any proposals which would adversely affect the environment and amenities of the Parish.

3 POWERS

In furtherance of the said objects, but not otherwise, the Society through its Committee shall have the following powers:-

- (i) To promote civic pride in the Parish.
- (ii) To discuss and organise appropriate action in respect of significant planning, development or other issues affecting or likely to affect the Parish.
- (iii) To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
- (iv) To co-operate when appropriate with the Parish Council, Local Authorities, planning committees and other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society and at the discretion of the Committee to become members, or affiliated members from time to time of other organisations with similar aims.
- (v) To promote, or assist in promoting, activities of a charitable nature.
- (vi) To publish papers, reports and other literature.
- (vii) To make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest within the Parish.
- (viii) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
- (ix) To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.
- (x) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose.
- (xi) To borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions.
- (xii) To do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

4 MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if his or her subscription is in arrears at the time. The subscriptions of a member joining the Society in the three months preceding 31 December in any year shall be regarded as covering membership for the Society's year commencing on 1 January following the date of joining the Society.

5 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions shall be:-

Full members	£3.00 per annum
Family members	£5.00 per annum
Life membership	£50.00

or such other reasonable sum as the Committee shall determine from time to time, and it shall be payable on or before 31 December each year in respect of the following year. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

6 MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held by 31 March each year to receive the Committee's report and audited accounts for the year to the preceding 31 December and to elect Officers and members of the Committee. The Committee shall decide when ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held. Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of fifteen or more members whose subscriptions are fully paid-up. Thirty members personally present shall constitute a quorum for such a meeting of the Society. The Committee shall normally give at least 7 days' notice to members of all meetings of the Society but the Committee shall have the power to give shorter notice if the urgency of the situation so requires. Ten members personally present shall constitute a quorum for the Annual General Meeting and for ordinary meetings of the Society.

7 OFFICERS

Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominees must first have been obtained. The elections of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. Nominees for election as Officers or Committee members shall declare at the Annual General Meeting at which their election is to be considered any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of:-

Chairman
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer

All of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. A President and Vice-Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society, for periods to be decided at such a meeting. The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies occurring among the Officers of the Society and shall elect a Vice Chairman from amongst its members.

8 THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than 4 and not more than 12 other members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt further members (who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity). The Officers and members of the Committee shall normally be resident or work in the Parish but the Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members from outside the Parish. The President and Vice-Presidents may attend any meeting of the Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. The Chairman will not vote but in the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder

and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place in such manner as shall be determined. Members of the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and outgoing members may be re-elected. The Committee shall meet not less than four times a year at intervals or not more than four months and the Honorary Secretary shall give all members not less than 7 days' notice of each meeting. The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one third of the members of the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to fill up to three casual vacancies occurring among the members of the Committee between General Meetings.

9 SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee may constitute such sub-committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Chairman appointed by the Committee and all actions and proceedings of each sub-committee shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Committee may be members of any sub-committee and membership of a sub-committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Committee. Sub-committees shall be subordinate to and may be regulated or dissolved by the Committee.

10 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It shall be the duty of every Officer or member of the Committee or sub-committee who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any Committee meeting at which he or she is present to declare such interest and he/she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

11 EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The Committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management expenses and the setting aside to reserve of such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Society.

12 ACCOUNTS

The Honorary Treasurer will keep appropriate records of all income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Society and will prepare accounts for each year ending on 31 December. Such accounts will be audited by a competent person nominated by the Committee and will be presented at the AGM for approval.

13 INVESTMENT

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purposes shall be invested by the Committee in or upon such investments, securities or bank or building society accounts as it may think fit.

14 AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society, provided that 21 days' notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members.

15 NOTICES

Any notice required to be given by these Rules shall be deemed to be duly given if left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the address of that member last notified to the Honorary Secretary.

16 WINDING UP

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous Meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Society is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed. On dissolution the Minute Books and other records of the Society shall be held in safe keeping for a period of three years.

