

# BACS

*Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society*

## Newsletter March 2009 No. 60

### Dates for your Diary:

AGM – Wednesday 25 March 2009, 7.30pm.  
Dawn Chorus Walk – Sunday 26 April 2009.  
Early Summer Walk – Sunday 7 June 2009

### Strawberry Wood Culvert Restoration Project:

**Below is a press release from the Kent High Weald Project, titled “A restoration of a Rural Relic”:**

A hidden treasure, which helps to tell the story of the rich history of the High Weald near Benenden in the deliciously named Strawberry Wood. An impressive stone built culvert was discovered there ten years ago and since then has been the subject of much intrigue and discussion. The interest has sparked extensive research about its purpose. The culvert is believed to be important locally in holding clues to the history of the wood, landscape and surrounding High Weald.

The threat of this historical feature being lost is real as the structure is near collapse. Fortunately due to the hard work of Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society and Kent High Weald Project, funding has been secured to carryout the restoration and research of the culvert as well as a host of other community related activities. Funding has come from 2 main sources, the majority of the money £48,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £21,000 from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ‘Heritage Grant Scheme’

Michelle Davies, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund South East England said:” This project will restore and conserve a remarkable stone culvert which takes a long-disused woodland road across one of the steep gills (valleys) so characteristic of the High Weald. The culvert may have associations with the iron industry and this is one of the things which the project hopes to unravel. The project will also enable the development of educational visits, heritage trails and information for the general public to raise awareness of the area's rich history.”

The Kent High Weald Project will be running the project, Jason Adams KHWP Manager said.” We are really excited to be involved in bringing a local heritage feature alive and engaging the local community in the process of discovery.”

A panel made up from Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society, Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Benenden Parish Council, Local Landowners, English Heritage, and Cranbrook Museum is overseeing the Strawberry Wood Restoration Project.

As well as the restoration of the culvert, the project will be an exciting journey for local communities in discovering more about our past, through archaeological digs, walks, theatre and information made available at the site and local schools in a variety of formats.

Please call the Kent High Weald Project on 01580 212972 or visit [www.khwp.org.uk](http://www.khwp.org.uk) for more information.

### **AGM:**

The 2009 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, beginning at 7.30pm. The agenda is attached to this newsletter. Following the formal part of the meeting, Richard Filmer will be entertaining us with a fully illustrated talk on Traditional Kentish Trades, Craft and industries.

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

### **Dawn Chorus Walk:**

Following the success of previous walks, another Dawn Chorus Walk will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, beginning at 5.30am. 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.

This event is for members only and numbers will be limited. So if you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or email [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk). All members on the list to attend will be provided with further information nearer the time.

Obviously no dogs are allowed, but do remember to bring along your binoculars.

### **Early Summer Walk:**

This year's Summer walk is provisionally scheduled for Sunday 7 June, beginning at 2.30pm. Further details will follow in the next newsletter. Please contact Alan Milne for further information.

Alan also has copies of the maps and notes from past BACS walks, which can be made available to anybody who is interested.

### **Subscriptions:**

The subscription for 2009 is £3 for an individual or £5 for a family. Alternatively, you can pay £50 for individual 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.

### **Electronic BACS:**

As you may know, BACS has its own area on the Benenden village website, which can be found at [www.benendenvillage.org.uk](http://www.benendenvillage.org.uk). On this site, you can discover the origins and objectives of the society, you can read about upcoming events and you can print a membership form, which can be used to either join the society or renew your membership. It is also possible to download back issues of the newsletter, from issue 37 onwards.

It is now also possible to receive this newsletter by email, which would be delivered as a 'pdf' document. Some members have already chosen this option. If you would also prefer to receive your newsletter in this way, please contact William Davies or any other committee member.

## Planning Matters:

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Roger Lake now 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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 are printed below. The vehicle is accessible from 8am until 11am, and this is the same every fortnight.

March	April	May
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> – Cherryfields, Benenden	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green crossroads Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> – Benenden Village Hall	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Iden Green crossroads Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green crossroads

## Your committee:

**Alan Milne – Chairman**  
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**Dick Hill**  
Columbanus, Off Standen Street, Iden Green, TN17 4HR  
Tel: 240517

**Angela Lloyd-Jones – Secretary**  
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**David Grief – Membership**  
Crit Hall, Cranbrook Road, Benenden, TN17 4EU  
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**Natalie Blakemore – Treasurer**  
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**Roger Lake – Planning**  
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**Gill Snow – Publicity**  
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**William Davies – Newsletter**  
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**BENENDEN AMENITY AND COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**TO BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BENENDEN**  
**AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2009**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 13 March 2008
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's report for the year ended 31 December 2008
5. Ms Natalie Blakemore (Hon. Treasurer) to present the audited accounts of the Society for year ended 31 December 2008.
6. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008
7. The following officers retire and offer themselves for re-election:  
Chairman: Mr. Alan Milne  
Hon Secretary: Mrs. Angela Lloyd-Jones  
Hon. Treasurer: Ms Natalie Blakemore
8. The following committee members retire and offer themselves for re-election:  
Mrs Gill Snow, and Messrs. David Grief, Dick Hill, Roger Lake and William Davies.
9. To consider any other relevant business of which proper notice has been given.

THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FULLY ILLUSTRATED TALK BY RICHARD FILMER, WHO REGULARLY SPEAKS TO LOCAL AMENITY GROUPS AND TO THE NATIONAL TRUST. HE IS COVERING CHANGES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS IN TRADITIONAL KENTISH TRADES AND COUNTRY LIFE & INDUSTRIAL LIFE

YOU ARE THEN ALL WELCOME TO STAY ON AND RELAX FOR WINE AND SNACKS.