

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Walk – Sunday 27 September 2009
AGM – Wednesday 10 March 2010

Strawberry Wood Culvert Restoration:

The celebration at Strawberry Wood, on Saturday 29 August, was extremely well attended and it provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see the magnificent restoration of the ancient culvert. The Kent High Weald Partnership had set up a very informative display of photos and a short video detailing the progress of the restoration over time, including the challenges the team faced and the discoveries they made.



Unfortunately, the restoration team was unable to find conclusive evidence of Roman activities around the culvert, but it is still widely believed that the culvert did have Roman origins and was built to support an iron industry in this area. Certainly, the Weald of Kent did have all the necessary ingredients for the development of a profitable iron industry for the Roman Empire: Plenty of water, wood and of course, iron ore.



The Kent High Weald Partnership had also arranged for several actors to line the walk from the lane to the culvert, playing the role of local craft and trades people from centuries past, which added to the experience of the day out. At the culvert, there was also an opportunity for families to take part in a range of traditional countryside craft demonstrations and activities. Activities included the opportunity to try some green woodworking, learn basic survival skills and practice archery. There was also a free barbecue provided by the Kent High Weald Partnership, which unfortunately run out of beef-burgers early, due to the fabulous weather and fantastic turn out.

Autumn Walk:

This year's Autumn Walk is at 2.30pm on Sunday, 27 September. We will meet in the car park of the church in Leeds Village, which is in Lower Street (B2163) and opposite the Leeds & Broomfield C of E School. We shall then be walking round the Leeds Castle estate and seeing absolutely marvellous views. A map and walk notes will be distributed at the start of the walk.

The walk will be 4.5 miles but, as usual, there will be shorter alternatives of the walk for those who would prefer this option. Dogs on leads will be very welcome. People might also like to bring tea and cakes along for a 'car boot tea' at the end of the walk. For more information please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk.

The Rocket's Trail:

This year is the 40th anniversary of the first manned moon landing and Benenden's Nick Snow has written a new novel called 'The Rocket's Trail' to coincide with this anniversary.

Nick found that the infamous "one small step for man" in July 1969 was made possible by a small group of Germans captured by the Americans at the end of the Second World War. The Rocket's Trail is about one of these men, his direct links to crimes against humanity, and how US Cold War Warriors went to extreme lengths to cover them up.

The Rocket's Trail is published by Arena Books and has an ISBN of: 978-1-906791-30-8. Copies are readily available at Crane Books, or can be purchased online at Amazon.com. You can also visit the books website, www.therocketstrail.com for more information.

Planning Matters:

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Roger Lake 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.

Local issues – we want to hear your news and views:

Do you have any local news which you would like to share with the BACS membership, or is there a local issue which is of concern to you? Perhaps you have an idea for a future BACS event or item which can be included in a future newsletter.

The BACS committee would like to hear your news and views, so please do contact a committee member if you would like to share your thoughts with us. The contact details for all committee members are included at the end of this newsletter.

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. 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.

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.

September	October	November
Sat 5 th – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 19 th – Iden Green crossroads	Sat 3 rd – Benenden Village Hall Sat 17 th – Iden Green crossroads Sat 31 st – Cherryfields, Benenden	Sat 14 th – Iden Green crossroads Sat 28 th – Benenden Village Hall

Your committee:

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