

BACS

Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society

Newsletter January 2011 No. 66

Dates for your Diary:

AGM – Wednesday 16th March 2011 – 7.30pm (new date)

Dawn Chorus Walk – Sunday 3rd April 2011 – 6am

Spring walk – Sunday 10th April 2011 – 2.30pm

Extra spring walk – Sunday 15th May 2011 – 2.30pm

St George's Church Tour – Tuesday 7th June 2011

Benenden History:

Local resident and historian Ernie Pollard has recently created a website devoted to the history of Benenden. The website currently has seven chapters covering selected periods and topics. Ernie is hoping to develop this into a broader history of the parish from prehistoric times to the twentieth century.

Current chapters include 'Archaeology in Benenden' which details the results of archaeological fieldwork across the parish and examines evidence of prehistoric and Roman activities in Benenden. Another chapter entitled 'The Dens and the Domesday Book' includes a fascinating section on the derivation of various 'den' settlement names, including Benenden and Iden Green. Another revealing chapter details Lord Cranbrook's role in developing Benenden throughout the second half of the 19th century. This included restoring the church, rebuilding Hemsted House, and building a new school.

Benenden is extremely fortunate to have a local historian as knowledgeable as Ernie, who has written a very detailed and professional account of the history of Benenden. Please do visit the website at www.benenden.history.pollardweb.com to read these fascinating chapters for yourself. Ernie would also be pleased to hear from anybody with an interest in Benenden and its history, so please contact Ernie at ernie@pollardweb.com if you have any comments on the website or its content.

Hospice in the Weald cook book:

A new cook book celebrating 30 years of Hospice in the Weald has recently been published; the result of 21 months hard work and dedication by local resident Joanne Greif and hospice volunteer Teresa Swinney. This fantastic book contains recipes from numerous local celebrities including Dame Kelly Holmes and Ian Hislop. It also features a wonderful picture of Benenden village green on the front cover.

More importantly, the book has been produced to raise money for Hospice in the Weald, and was published free of charge by Heidelbergs ensuring that every penny goes directly to this worthwhile local charity. Copies are available at all local Hospice in the Weald shops.

AGM:

The 2011 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Wednesday 16th March, beginning at 7.30pm. Following the formal part of the meeting, a speaker from the Weald of Kent Preservation Society will present a DVD which they and Cranbrook School made titled "A Journey through the Weald of Kent" and which was premiered at Cranbrook School on 4 November.

In 1960, the year that WKPS was founded, a lyrical 23 minute colour documentary was made by BP and narrated by John Betjeman, titled "A Journey into the Weald of Kent". Earlier this year, to mark the 50th anniversary of WKPS, the Society commissioned a new documentary which has been made by Cranbrook School students.

This new film includes archive footage from the original. It also illustrates life in the Weald of Kent throughout the early years of the 21st century and looks at the changes that have taken place during the last 50 years. The new film is narrated by the WKPS vice-president, Adam Nicholson, and follows a group of young people [Cranbrook School students] cycling through Kent looking at the modern day Weald through their perspective.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting and enjoy what promises to be an entertaining presentation, after which everyone will be welcome to stay and relax over wine and snacks. The evening will be free to members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2011 before the start of the evening. Admission for all others will be £10 per head.

Dawn Chorus Walk:

Following the success of previous walks, another Dawn Chorus Walk will take place on Sunday 3rd April. We will meet at 6am in the Benenden Village Hall car park. 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. Preference will be given to anyone who has not been on one of our Dawn Chorus walks, so if you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or email 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.

Subscriptions:

Membership rates for 2011 are £5 for an individual and £10 for a family. Subscriptions are due on the 1st January every year, and all members will shortly receive a renewal form for this purpose.

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.

Spring Walks:

This year's Spring walk has been scheduled for Sunday 10th April, meeting at the usual time of 2.30pm. Full details will be available in the new year, and will be in the next newsletter

The postponed Autumn walk, originally scheduled for October 2010, has now been rearranged for Sunday 15 May. This is a 5 mile trek through the countryside surrounding Burwash, and should take in some wonderful views of the Sussex Weald, weather permitting. The walk will also take us through the grounds of Rudyard Kipling's 17th-century house, Batemans, now managed by the National Trust. Although only 5 miles, the walk is steep in places. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Whilst not necessarily part of this event, walkers may like to know that Batemans will be open until 5pm on this day, so National Trust members may like to bring their cards. Non-member admission is £8.20 for adults and £4.10 for children. You can find more information on Batemans on the relevant page of the National Trust website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-batemans

We will meet in the car park of the Bear Inn, in the centre of Burwash, at 2.30pm. Maps and routes will be distributed in the car park, where public toilets are also available. Tea will also be provided in the car park at the end of the walk.

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.

January	February	March
Sat 8 th – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 22 nd – Cherryfields, Benenden	Sat 5 th – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 19 th – Benenden Village Hall	Sat 5 th – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 19 th - Cherryfields, Benenden

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