

# BACS

*Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society*

## Newsletter March 2011 No. 67

### Dates for your Diary:

AGM – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – 7.30pm

Dawn Chorus Walk – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 – 6am

Spring walk – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – 2.30pm

St George's Church Tour – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – 7.30pm

### AGM:

The 2011 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, beginning at 7.30pm. Following the formal part of the meeting, a speaker from the Weald of Kent Protection Society will present a film 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 speaker from the Weald of Kent Preservation Society will then be available to answer questions and provide further information for those who are interested. A stock of DVDs will also be available for sale, enabling you to buy your own copy of the film to take home and watch again.

If you would like to find out more about the Weald of Kent Protection Society, please visit their website at [www.wkps.org.uk](http://www.wkps.org.uk), which also includes further information on the film which is to be shown.

The evening will be free to members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2011. On arrival members will be asked to sign their name on the membership list, which will be at the door. Admission for all others will be £10 per head. Please find a full agenda for the AGM attached to this newsletter.

### **Dawn Chorus Walk:**

Following the success of previous walks, another Dawn Chorus Walk will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. If you would like to attend, you must therefore contact Alan Milne on 240819 or email [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk). Preference will be given to anyone who has not previously been on one of our Dawn Chorus walks. 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.

### **Spring Walk:**

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 17<sup>th</sup>-century house, Batemans, now managed by the National Trust. Although only 5 miles, the walk is steep in places. Dogs on leads are welcome.

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.

Please note the Spring walk mentioned in the previous newsletter, which had been scheduled for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, has now been cancelled.

### **St George's Church Tour:**

The BACS committee has organised a tour of St George's Church on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, beginning at 7.30pm. During the evening, the Revd Canon Dr Charles Hill and the Revd Dr Rosemary Van Wengen will be available to lead a tour around our local parish church and answer any questions members may have.

St George's church is one of the few anywhere in the country with 13 bells in the belfry. For those who would like a closer look, there will also be an opportunity to climb into the belfry with Rod Lebon, who campaigned for the 13<sup>th</sup> bell to be installed a few years ago. Rod will be able to answer any questions you may have about the bells and there may even be an opportunity to have a go at bell-ringing yourself.

It is hoped members will also be able to climb to the roof of the tower, to see the magnificent views of the village and surrounding countryside, weather permitting.

Numbers will be strictly limited to 40 for this event, so if you would like to attend, you must contact Alan Milne on 240819 or email [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk). Further details of the arrangements for the evening will be in the next newsletter.

### Subscriptions:

If you have not already done so, please remember to renew your membership for this year, using the form recently sent to all members. Membership rates for 2011 are £5 for an individual and £10 for a family. The form also enables you to update your personal details and include additional contact details, including your email address.

It is 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 let us know.

### 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.

### 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.

<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> – Benenden Village Hall Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> – Benenden Village Hall Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads

### Your committee:

<p><b>Alan Milne – Chairman</b> Somers, Mounts Hill, Benenden, TN17 4ET Tel: 240819 Fax: 241109, Email: alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk</p> <p><b>Dick Hill</b> Columbanus, Off Standen Street, Iden Green, TN17 4HR Tel: 240517</p> <p><b>Angela Lloyd-Jones – Secretary</b> West Winds, Cranbrook Road, Benenden, TN17 4EU Tel: 240354 Fax: 243064, Email: angela136@btinternet.com</p> <p><b>David Grief – Membership</b> Crit Hall, Cranbrook Road, Benenden, TN17 4EU Tel: 241772 Fax: 240772, Email: david@grief.co.uk</p>	<p><b>Natalie Blakemore – Treasurer</b> 2 Hortons Close, Benenden, TN17 4LF Tel: 243118, Email: nattyb30@live.com</p> <p><b>Roger Lake – Planning</b> Benenden Barn, The Street, Benenden, TN17 4BZ Tel: 241605</p> <p><b>Gill Snow – Publicity</b> Orchards, Mounts Hill, Benenden, TN17 4ET Tel: 240493, Email: grsnow@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p><b>William Davies – Newsletter</b> Weald House, Iden Green, TN17 4HH Tel: 240723, Email: wgd@wealdhouse.co.uk</p>
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**BENENDEN AMENITY AND COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**TO BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BENENDEN**  
**AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2011**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 22nd AGM held on 10 March 2010
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's report for the year ended 31 December 2010
5. Ms Natalie Blakemore (Hon. Treasurer) to present the audited accounts of the Society for year ended 31 December 2010.
6. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010
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 SHOWING OF THE FILM, "A JOURNEY INTO THE WEALD OF KENT", NARRATED BY JOHN BETCHMAN AND WHICH WAS SHOWN AT THE FIRST PUBLIC MEETING OF WKPS [WEALD OF KENT PROTECTION SOCIETY] IN 1960. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN UPDATED VERSION CALLED "A JOURNEY IN THE WEALD OF KENT" TO MARK THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WKPS WHICH WAS MADE BY CRANBROOK SCHOOL STUDENTS. IT IS NARRATED BY WKPS VICE-PRESIDENT, ADAM NICHOLSON.