

March 2012

No. 70

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The 2012 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, beginning at 7.30pm. A full agenda is attached to this newsletter.

Following the formal part of the meeting, Barry Littlechild will be entertaining us with a nostalgic film titled 'Yesterday's Britain...1950'. The film runs for about an hour and looks at life in the 1950's. It will include lots of Royal footage, which should be ideal for the Queen's Jubilee year.

Some members may remember Barry Littlechild from the 'Adventures in the Hopfields' film evening organised by BACS in 2005. I know this event will prove to be just as enjoyable, after which members will be invited to stay for drinks and snacks.

Tickets for the film, which are to be sold at the door, are £5 for members and £10 for non-members.

## A TEACHER'S LIFE IN KHARTOUM

Members may be interested to know that this newsletter has defied international sanctions and been produced in the Sudan.

This is where I am currently working, as a secondary school teacher at Unity High School, which is in the centre of Khartoum.

Living and working in Sudan is an amazing experience, and as you may imagine, is completely different to life in the UK. I have therefore been writing a blog about my experiences so far, both inside and outside of school.

If you are interested, and if you have a spare moment, please do read my blog online. It is updated every Sunday.

**Weblink** - Read William's blog in full at:  
<http://www.teachingsudan.blogspot.com>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2012 AGM:

Wednesday 14th March  
7.30pm

### Spring Walk:

Sunday 25th March  
2.30pm

### Dawn Chorus Walk:

Sunday 20th May  
7.00am

## BACS ONLINE

This newsletter has been designed to be distributed by email and viewed whilst your computer is online. Please ensure the committee has your email address if you would like to receive the newsletter in this way.

The yellow boxes titled 'weblink' contain links to specific websites, which relate to the item in the newsletter. If you click on them whilst online, your computer will automatically open the relevant website.

BACS has its own area on the village website. Go to [www.benendenvillage.org.uk](http://www.benendenvillage.org.uk) and find the link on the left hand side.

On this site, you can discover the origins and objectives of the society, read about upcoming events and 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.

## 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 noticeboards and details can be seen online 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.

## CIVIC AMENITY REFUSE VEHICLE

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council organises the civic amenity refuse vehicle, which visits the Parish between 8am and 11am every other Saturday.

The fortnightly visits alternate between Iden Green and Benenden, and provide an opportunity for you to dispose of bulky rubbish.

**The next visit will be on Saturday 18th February, from 8am, at Cherryfields in Benenden.**

For more information, including a full schedule, just click on the link below. You can also find a schedule displayed on both Parish noticeboards.

## SPRING WALK

This year's Autumn walk is on Sunday 25th March and will be a circular walk around the outskirts of Tenterden. The walk will be the usual length of about 5 miles and dogs on leads are welcome.

We will meet in the Tenterden railway station car park at 2.30pm, when maps and routes will be distributed. As usual, tea will be provided in the car park at the end of the walk.

The walk is open to both members and to anyone who may like to join BACS, so please do encourage friends and relatives to join us on this lovely walk. Please contact Alan Milne for further information.



## DAWN CHORUS WALK

Following the success of previous walks, another Dawn Chorus Walk will take place on Sunday 20th May.

This year, we will be focussing on the birdlife found in coastal areas, and will be walking within Rye Harbour nature reserve. We will meet at 7am in the car park at Rye Harbour.

As always, we will be lead by Stephen Message, professional artist and ornithologist. The walk will take place whatever the weather and is expected to last about three hours.

Everyone is invited to attend this fascinating event. Obviously no dogs are allowed, but do remember to bring along your binoculars.



**Weblink** - Find more information on the Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle at: <http://www2.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1999>

## PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

In a new part of the BACS newsletter, which it is hoped may become a regular feature, we will take a nostalgic look back at three old newsletters. The full edition for each of these newsletters can be downloaded from the Benenden village website: [www.benendenvillage.org.uk](http://www.benendenvillage.org.uk)

### 10 ISSUES BACK...

**Issue 60 of the BACS newsletter was published in March 2009.**

The newsletter led with a press release from the Kent High Weald Partnership, about the Strawberry Wood Culvert restoration project.

Also this month, the newsletter contained the agenda for the 21st AGM, after which, Richard Filmer gave a fascinating talk to members about traditional Kentish trades.

### 20 ISSUES BACK...

**Issue 50 of the BACS newsletter was published in January 2006.**

This newsletter contained information on the new brown wheelie bins and updated members on the proposed new primary school.

It also contained an extract from the records of the Benenden Home Guard, dated September 1940. This was the seventh part of a fascinating series compiled by Ernie Pollard.

### 30 ISSUES BACK...

**Issue 40 of the BACS newsletter was published in May 2003.**

This edition contained a report from the 15th AGM, after which John Stafford from the Forestry Commission talked to members about Hemsted Forest, including future plans.

This newsletter advertised the 2003 Spring Walk, and contained the full notes of trail 5, from Ernie Pollard's book of parish walks.

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## THE BACS COMMITTEE

### **Alan Milne – Chairman**

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**BENENDEN AMENITY AND COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**TO BE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BENENDEN**  
**AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2012**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve the minutes of the 23rd AGM held on 16 March 2011
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. To receive the Chairman's report for the year ended 31 December 2011
5. Ms Natalie Blakemore (Hon. Treasurer) to present the audited accounts of the Society for year ended 31 December 2011.
6. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011
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:  
Mmes Jane Ellis and 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, "YESTERDAY'S BRITAIN" FOCUSING ON THE 1950'S. THE FILM CONTAINS HISTORIC FOOTAGE OF THE QUEEN AND ROYAL FAMILY AND WILL BE A GREAT INTRODUCTION TO ROYAL JUBILEE YEAR.

THE FILM IS BEING PRESENTED BY BARRY LITTLECHILD, WHO SHOWED US THE JANE ASHER FILM ABOUT THE HOPFIELDS OF GOUDHURST . BARRY DOESN'T CHARGE A FEE, BUT PROFITS FOR THE EVENING GO TOWARDS A CHARITY OF HIS CHOOSING.

TICKETS FOR THE FILM, WHICH ARE TO BE SOLD ON THE DOOR, ARE £5.00 FOR BACS MEMBERS AND £10.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS. REFRESHMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PRICE.