



# NEWSLETTER

September 2012

No. 71

## VISIT TO BENENDEN HOSPITAL

The BACS committee would like to invite all members to attend a free guided tour of Benenden Hospital. We will meet in the main reception at 2pm on Saturday 13th October.

This visit will be an opportunity for members to discover more about the past and present functions of our local hospital, which is the only owned hospital of the Benenden Healthcare Society.

Many of you will be aware that the hospital was originally a TB Sanatorium for post office workers and admitted its first patients in 1907.

However, you may not be aware that the society now has around 930,000 members and at its annual Conference this year passed a resolution to open membership to all. In addition, 40% of the current society members live within 2 hours of our hospital showing its value to the organisation. Today, the hospital conducts 6,000 operations performed per year and 40,000 out-patient appointments. Going forward the hospital hopes to invest in its facilities and continue to develop new services.

During our visit we will go into theatres, out-patients, paediatrics and X-ray, but this may depend on patients. The visit will include an update on the hospital's future development plans and a short visit to the hospital museum. Light refreshments will also be available.

**You must register an interest to attend this members only event.** Please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk) **by 7th October**, if you would like to attend, so that the hospital can arrange for catering.

Children will be very welcome, although if you would like to bring your family, please make sure you have a family membership (as opposed to an individual membership) by the same date. Family membership is £10. Please contact Natalie Blakemore to check your membership status, or upgrade.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Benenden Hospital Visit:**  
Saturday 13th October, 2pm

**Autumn Walk:**  
Sunday 30th September, 2.30pm

## THANK YOU

The Committee of BACS would like to thank Dawn Bailey for her devotion to the village over 30 years, culminating in her chairing the Parish Council. We were very sorry to learn that she felt forced to resign as Chairman and from the parish council as well.

In addition, we would like to express our appreciation to Bonny Sullivan, who, as Parish Clerk, has also carried out the administration of the Parish so cheerfully and efficiently.

We are also saddened to learn that Jan Helmsley, another valued member of the Parish Council, has also resigned.

We wish Dawn, Bonny and Jan all the best for the future. They will all be very much missed and we thank them for their continuing support for BACS.

## BACS ONLINE

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 read about upcoming events, print a membership form and 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 29th September, 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.

## AUTUMN WALK

This year's Autumn walk is on Sunday 30th September and will be a circular walk around the parish, including some private land. The walk will be the usual length of about 5 miles, although a shorter route will also be available. As usual, dogs on leads are welcome.

We will meet in the Village Hall car park at 2.30pm, when maps and routes will be distributed. Tea will also be available here at the end of the walk. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## AGM REPORT

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society took place on Wednesday 14th March in the Benenden Village Hall. The meeting began with Alan Milne presenting his chairman's report, after which Natalie Blakemore presented the treasurer's report.

Alan Milne was then re-elected as chairman, Angela Lloyd-Jones was re-elected as secretary and Natalie Blakemore was re-elected as treasurer. The remaining committee members were then also re-elected to serve on the committee for another year.

The chairman's report in full follows at the end of this newsletter.

Members were then treated to a excellent film, from our guest Barry Littlechild, which took us on a fascinating journey through Britain in the 1950s. This successful event raised £75 for the Sherwood Park Community Primary School in Tunbridge Wells, which was used to purchase plants for the school's Jubilee Garden.

## JUBILEE TREASURE HUNT WINNERS

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations may now seem a long time ago, but the committee would like to formally congratulate the winners of the BACS treasure hunt, held during the long weekend.

The children's treasure hunt winner was Amelia Thomas (age 7). She won a family ticket to the rare breeds centre in Woodchurch.

The family treasure hunt winner was Gill and Fern Hockney, who won a voucher for Chapel Down. Robin and Jane Dalton-Holmes were runners up.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to everyone who took part in this successful Jubilee event!

**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 61 of the BACS newsletter was published in June 2009.**

The newsletter led with a report on events which celebrated 400 years of primary education in our village.

Also this month, the newsletter contained an update on the strawberry wood restoration project.

Also included was the chairman's report from the 21st AGM.

### 20 ISSUES BACK...

**Issue 51 of the BACS newsletter was published in April 2006.**

This newsletter contained an update on the proposed new primary school and the report from 18th AGM, during which Jane Abbott gave a fascinating talk on Benenden Hospital.

It also contained another extract from the records of the Benenden Home Guard, dated October 1940, as researched by Ernie Pollard.

### 30 ISSUES BACK...

**Issue 41 of the BACS newsletter was published in September 2003.**

This edition contained a detailed report of the public meeting held concerning the fly infestation which was then seriously affecting life in the village.

This newsletter also contained the full notes of trail 7, from Ernie Pollard's book of local walks, which takes us through Standen and Dingle-den.

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## THE BACS COMMITTEE

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## **BACS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 24th AGM – 14 MARCH 2012**

I'd like to welcome everyone to our 24<sup>th</sup> AGM this evening and especially guests, newcomers and new members. We try to make our annual meetings interesting and endeavour to present something different each time.

This year, I'm pleased to welcome back Barry Littlechild with a fascinating compilation of events during the 1950's "Yesterday's Britain". Barry presented the film "Adventures in the Hopfields" at our 2007 AGM. Profits from this evening will go to Barry's chosen charity, Sherwood Park Primary School. The children use this to build up their fruit and vegetable garden to grow ingredients for their lunches.

We hope that you appreciate the changes to the BACS Newsletter this year. It has been totally redesigned by William Davies and we hope that you like it. For those who receive it by email, you see a coloured version. It is cheaper and quicker for us (and better for you) if we can send it to you by email (and especially now that postal charges are rumoured to be increasing by over 50% from early April). If you haven't done so, please keep us up to date with your email address, including any changes. We do realise, however, that you may not have access to a computer, so we shall continue to post copies, if you prefer. Another change to the Newsletter is that it is currently published in Sudan, as William is teaching in Khartoum. Details of how you can follow his life there are contained in this month's Newsletter.

It is sad to report that a previous auditor to BACS, Fred Bishop, died last year. He will be remembered as a good supporter of the Society, as well as the village cricket club.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to say that Jane Abbott (or Ellis as she is known in the village) has joined the Committee. Jane may be better known as the Hospital Director of Benenden Hospital. She has very kindly offered to organise a special tour of the hospital this Autumn and details of this members' only event will be circulated in the next Newsletter. Her husband, Peter, is co-ordinating the village Jubilee celebrations and BACS will be joining in and organising a couple of events over the holiday weekend, as well as planning a parish pub crawl. Members will be kept updated.

BACS also 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 more about the village, the origins and objectives of the Society, read about planned 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. Some of the Newsletters include articles on local history, which will especially interest those who have recently moved into Benenden or Iden Green.

Since the last AGM we had a successful evening at St George's Church where we were able to try our hand at bellringing, climb the tower and have a fascinating and instructive tour lead by Revd Dr Rosemary van Wengen, including to parts of the building which many did not know existed. I'd like to thank Committee member, Dick Hill, for organising the evening.

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