

BACS

Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society

Newsletter September 2013 No. 73

Dates for your Diary:

Orchard Open Day – Sunday 6th October 2013

Autumn Walk – Sunday 20th October 2013

Village Panto – 23-26th January 2014

AGM 2014 – Wednesday 19th March 2014

St George's Benenden - New Incumbent

St George's PCC is delighted to announce that a new incumbent has been appointed for the joint benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst. He is Rev David Commander, at present a curate at St James' Church in Tunbridge Wells.

Formerly he was a churchwarden for three years at St John the Baptist Church at Watringbury. David originally trained as an engineer.

He and his wife, Helen, will be joining us in October. David's installation service, conducted by the Bishop of Dover, will be held at St Nicholas, Sandhurst, at 7.00 pm on Monday 14th October and he will take his first service, a joint one with Sandhurst, on the morning of Sunday 20th October at St George's, Benenden. David's present incumbent is on study leave until September, after which David will take his accrued holiday before moving to Benenden.

For technical reasons connected with our two parishes, David will be known as the Rector and The Vicarage will become The Rectory.

St George's Benenden - Churchyard

The churchyard is maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone in Benenden. Our underlying aim is to provide a peaceful and respectful setting for the burial and interment of ashes of our loved ones. Within this aim we try to strike a balance between providing, on the one hand, well manicured areas and, on the other hand, areas where nature can be enjoyed to its fullest. For example, several weeks ago in one part of the "natural" area there was a marvellous display of early purple orchids.

Maintenance is carried out in three ways. Firstly, by a paid contractor, to the extent that our limited finances permit; then, by one or two members of the congregation, who manage to put in a few vital hours on a regular basis; and finally, by means of Churchyard Working Parties. The latter are held less frequently, sometimes on an "as required" basis. So far this year they have concentrated on the Vicarage garden, in the absence of an incumbent, and so work in the Churchyard has fallen behind where we would like it to be. With this in mind, there is a working party on the 21st September from 9.00 am to noon. All are welcome and of course you can join us for just an hour or so.

We have some tools, but if you can bring your own, such as strimmers, rakes, secateurs, loppers, etc, so much the better. Refreshments provided!

Shocking news!

Through discussions with the Southeast Coastal Ambulance Service (SECAMB) we have managed to secure a free defibrillator for the village. Defibrillators are used to shock the heart into normal rhythm in some cases of cardiac arrest or fibrillation (uncoordinated twitching of the heart muscle). Delays in the use of the defibrillator will reduce the chances of a person surviving such an incident by 10% per minute. Evidently in a rural community ambulances can take a significant amount of time to get to a patient decreasing survival chances.

For those of you worrying about this machine being used wrongly, it is fully automatic and will not deliver a charge unless it detects an appropriate rhythm.

In the short term the device will reside at **The Bull** whose staff will be given priority training in its use; heartfelt thanks to Lucy and Mark for generously allowing this. In the very near future we will be placing it in a special exterior box probably at the Village Hall where it can be accessed 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The committee has agreed to purchase this box at the cost of about £1000 from BACs funds and then subsequently fundraise to replace the money (and support the purchase and positioning of a second device in Iden Green being arranged by Graham Walden on the Parish Council alongside Peter Ellis our chair). Because of the nature and value of the device a good quality climate controlled, vandal proof, box is really essential and, in order to prevent a delay in siting it, the committee felt this was a good use of amenity monies.

If you want to be trained in its use please either let Peter know at the event or e-mail: peteralanellis@aol.com or Tel 240540.

In conjunction with the Parish Council we are also looking into the possibility of providing both heart start (a basic resuscitation course: <http://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/how-we-help/training/heartstart-uk.aspx>) and a full first responders course (emergency and first aid). Again if you are interested please contact Peter or Graham Waldren on BPC.

On the whole the defibrillator is useless unless we as villagers take responsibility for learning how to use it. If no-one who knows how it works when it is needed its efficacy will be greatly reduced.

It is simple to use and if trained you could save the life of someone you know; perhaps even a loved one. Please consider being involved in the basic training it is only about 20 -30 minutes. If you are a group and you want to be trained I am happy to come along and train you in the basic use of the defibrillator over about 45 minutes to one hour.

Autumn Walk:

The next walk will take place within the Parish of Benenden and will set off from the car park at the Village Hall at 2pm on the 20th October. This will be a gentle 5 miler and as ever dogs are welcome. Tea and cake will await our return.

If you have never been on one of the walks, they are a gentle perambulation in the best of company to which all are most welcome; do consider coming along and meeting up with established and making new friends.

Many thanks to Philip for arranging this again.

AGM 2014:

We believe it is important that we not only have, but we demonstrate transparency in the way in which your organisation works. Therefore as a committee we feel it important to remind you that at present the BACs constitution states:

Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made in writing to the honorary secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place in such manner as shall be determined. Members of the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and outgoing members may be re-elected.

If you are planning to stand for a position on the committee, or know of someone who is, please take note of this and make contact with Angela before the 5th March - the AGM for 2014 taking place on 19th March at the conference room at the hospital – more details to be released nearer the time.

Almost certainly we will be discussing some potential amendments to the constitution, some of which are needed to reflect the positive role the society plays and wishes to continue playing in the life of our wonderful village. Please therefore make a note of this date to add to you 2014 diary at Christmas!

Walk Reports:

Dawn Chorus & Wild Plant Walk Report (Sunday 21st April 7.30am)

We are indeed fortunate as a community to have so many people willing to take the time out to arrange and run events for our collective education and pleasure. The dawn chorus walk started with around 20 individuals led by Stephen Message who introduced us to the calls of several of the birds in residence in the lanes surrounding the Hospital.

Breakfast was provided by some of the catering staff at the hospital, to whom we are most grateful and then Carol Head (the head gardener) introduced us to the beautifully designed Edna's retreat. The retreat is a small sensory garden situated just behind the main hospital to the side of Green Lane and is a haven of tranquillity and gentle stimulation. Carol also introduced us to a number of the evergreen trees situated in the grounds; unfortunately as the summer had been so cold and wet up to that point the wild orchids had failed to bloom and we were therefore not able to visit them at that time.

A summer walk into history

One often wonders what we would do without the Message family as yet again Philip did us proud on the summer walk taking in the 1066 Link Path and some of the 1066 Path itself. Again about 20 intrepid adventurers set off, doing somewhat better than the Saxon Horde of old, as we all returned, alive, two and a half hours later to our point of departure - the car park off of the High Street for the obligatory tea and cake!

Along the way we gossiped, climbed stiles, avoided some moody looking cows (bovine variety), walked right under pylons, passed through a large fishing complex (and in the case of one dog upset a few anglers) and marched along country roads as often as not with Natalie on point. The weather held out for us, so all-in-all it transpired to be a very pleasant way to spend a summer afternoon.

Planning Matters:

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

Not a load of rubbish!

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. You can find a schedule displayed on both Parish notice boards and can be found at:

http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/21885/Civic-refuse-timetable.pdf

Confirmed dates are:

Benenden / Village Hall – **28th September**

Apologies:

Technical issues prevented this edition of the BACS newsletter from being published in colour and in the format of previous newsletters. It is hoped this is a temporary problem and normal service should therefore resume for the next newsletter.

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Standen Fruit Farm Community Orchard

Orchard Open Day

Sunday 6 October 2013

1.00 pm to 4.00 pm opposite Chapel House, Standen Street Benenden TN17 4LB

Join us to pick, eat, and juice apples from the orchard.

Special BBQ and Cider tasting.

Organic meat and produce available.

Help us to pick apples for this season's cider making.

Enjoy a great family afternoon out exploring our beautiful orchard.

(Free entry. Children and dogs welcome. Bring your own juice containers and possibly a small stepladder.)

Players News

The annual pantomime for 2014 is "Scrooge the Panto" with a mega cast, lots of laughs and plenty of songs. Watch for the ticket release in December; show dates 23-26th January.