

### DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

To date we have trained about 40 villagers in the use of this important piece of equipment. There is another training session on the 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 in the learning and teaching centre at the hospital – this is free to attend – which will last about an hour and a half. Places are filling up so please book by calling or e-mailing Peter.

The external box for the defibrillator will cost about £520 and the current plan is to site it at Wheelwrights House on the Garage.

The reasons for this are: it is a central location which is seen by many on a daily basis; the box is alarmed and so needs to be near somewhere where it would be heard if opened (either for proper use or by vandals); the whole family is trained in its use! Many thanks to The Bull for taking care of the Defibrillator to date.

Some money has been put by already towards this and together with the Bendenden Players we will be having a fundraising night on the 12<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall, to help toward the cost (see right).

We are also keen to raise money for a defibrillator to be placed in Iden Green and will work towards this during the rest of the year.



### A NIGHT AT THE RACES

Ascot comes to Benenden (but no need to wear a hat!). Come and join us on Saturday 12th April, for a night of fun and betting on the horses in the Benenden Village Hall. The event begins at 7pm.

£10 secures a table for up to 10 people. Pay to play each race (usually each bet is £1). Bar. Bring your own nibbles (for you, not the horses).

Funds raised to be split between the defibrillator fund (supported by Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society) and the Benenden Players for equipment. To book call Peter on 07860941139 or Ruth 07767261883 or visit [benendenplayers.co.uk](http://benendenplayers.co.uk)

### NEW CHARITY IN IDEN GREEN

Benenden's local Community Orchard in Standen Street has just been granted charitable status and is now actively seeking both new members and volunteers.

Subs are just £10 a year for which you get regular newsletters and invitations to Apple Day and other community events including demonstrations of hedge-laying, coppicing and pruning.

Tours of what is believed to be the largest Traditional Apple orchard left in the South East can be arranged by appointment. For this or information about volunteering contact the Orchard Manager, Kent Barker on 01580 240637 or email [Kent\\_Barker@Hotmail.com](mailto:Kent_Barker@Hotmail.com).

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**2014 AGM:**  
Wednesday 19th March  
Benenden Hospital  
7pm

**A night at the Races:**  
Saturday 12th April  
Village Hall  
7pm

**Spring Walk:**  
Sunday 11th May  
Robertsbridge  
2pm

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

We would like to remind all members that subscriptions were due on 1st January.

All members should now have received notification, either by email or letter.

If you have not paid, please could you do so or tell Natalie that you no longer wish to be a member.

## BACS ONLINE

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

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 and print a membership form. It is also possible to download back issues of the BACS newsletter, from issue 37 onwards.

## 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 1st March, from 8am, at Iden Green cross-roads.**

Visit [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk) for more information and a full schedule. You can also find a schedule displayed on both Parish noticeboards.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 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 Peter before the 5<sup>th</sup> March - the AGM for 2014 taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the conference room at the hospital – We will sign this, but it is the opposite side of Green Lane to the main hospital building.

The committee is manned (and womaned) by some very busy people and as such we really need some new blood to join us – especially if you have an interest in local planning matters. We are also in need of a minute taker and someone to take on publicity. To date we know that Jane, Gill and Angela will be standing down and I would like to thank them for their work for the committee and membership to date.

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.

Kent Barker will be telling us something about the community orchard in Iden Green and we are hoping to have a guest speaker from the Weald of Kent Preservation Society also.

Jane has agreed to open the hospital museum up from about 6pm if you would like to pay a visit, someone will be there to guide

Please therefore make a note of this date to add to your diary.

## VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

Peter erroneously stated, in an e-mail to members, that the Benenden Parish Council had put forward the application for the extension of the car park – this is in fact not the case. The Harmsworth Memorial Trust would in fact be selling the land to KCC who are in fact the proposers of the application in support of parking at the proposed new school – thanks to Councillors Reynolds and Barker for pointing this out. Peter is happy to correct this misstatement.

With regard to this application, our consultation with members was divided right down the middle, but there was an over-riding feeling that the proposal should have been in the public domain for longer than it was. Peter made representation regarding this to BPC/HMT and has represented both positive and negative to KCC with an overarching theme of asking why were the villagers not consulted before the plans went in? Some work on improving communication between the BPC/HMT and BACS has already started.

## REPORT: VERY WET AUTUMN WALK

Twenty or so expectant souls set off from the village hall car park on the 20<sup>th</sup> October last. This *autumn jaunt* was scripted as “a gentle 5 miler” with “tea and cake awaiting our return”. Off we set with spirits high as the cloud had broken and it looked to be as they say *set fair*. The first 3 miles or so were indeed delightful crossing through Strawberry woods and down through dingle den and then over the Rolvenden Lane to Stepneyford.

Down Stepneyford Lane we went standing aside for the odd car and thence into the fields heading off up toward Nine Acre Wood. This is when it all went wrong. Having got about as far from home as we could get the heavens opened. One minute we were enjoying a break from the wet October weather, the next a genuine inland squall blew up. Sensible waterproof clothing and footwear proved little protection against the horizontal sheets of rain. On we trudged on toward Walkhurst Road with remarkably high spirits as we made our way through small river which was running through the woods.

On the whole though British pluck pulled us through and we didn't lose a single soul along the way. All I can say is, let's pray for a sunny day for the next one.

Many thanks to Philip for arranging this again.

## 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.

## SPRING WALK

Philip and Alan have been planning a 5 mile walk leaving Robertsbridge car park in Station Road at 2.00pm on Sunday, 11 May. Let's hope it has stopped raining by then. If you need a lift to Robertsbridge please let Peter Know.

## ALL THE SINGLE MEN...

The Men's Lunch Cub meets quarterly in the Memorial hall where a home cooked meal is served and there is a happy fellowship. It is aimed at men who live on their own for any reason and newcomers are always welcome. Contact: Aurea Gregory on 01580240869

## **TAKING OUR VILLAGE PLAN FORWARD: A message from Jim Hyde**

Following the Village Survey, as part of the Village Plan I have been asked to co-ordinate environmental objectives. Part of the remit covers footpaths around the village, improving public awareness, access and footpath maintenance. I already monitor the footpaths, make minor repairs, trim vegetation and report any items I cannot handle to Kent County Council. I took this role on from Phillip Message who had maintained many of stiles around the village for a number of years. I have combined Phillips written log of footpaths with a spreadsheet from the parish council and created an Excel spreadsheet with place names to mark the start/end of paths.

A proposal I have put forward is for individuals or groups of people to “adopt” a footpath, walk it at least once a month, keeping it clear of litter and doing any minor maintenance they feel capable of. I have a list of volunteers from the Village Survey who I am in the process of contacting to see if anyone is prepared to take on a path and I would welcome volunteers from BACS.

I propose to form a small working party to look into suggestions received, such as looking into stile free footpath routes that can be accessed by those who are unable to negotiate stiles, producing guides to footpaths and suggested circular walks, producing a map showing the location of all paths around the village, web or paper based or both.

Some of the other areas to be covered under the environmental umbrella could include; litter, fly tipping, renewable energy, energy efficiency. There may also be areas which overlap into areas covered by other conveners involved in the Village Plan, such as energy efficiency in new housing, speed limits, where we can share ideas and expertise.

If you are interested in becoming involved contact me on [jim.hyde2@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.hyde2@btinternet.com) or phone 01580 240418.

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