

### DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE:

To date we have trained about 50 villagers in the use of this important piece of equipment. The Parish Council have purchased and own the external boxes in which these devices are sited for 24hour a day access. BACS will be making a large donation towards these important village amenities. The first box has already been installed on the garage wall at Wheelwright's House on the Green. The second will be going into the old telephone box on the main street in Iden Green shortly.

There is a story in circulation that one does not need to be trained in how to use these devices, which is essentially true. Once opened the defibrillators talk the user through what needs to be done and in what order. The ambulance service and British Heart Foundation encourage people to undertake basic life support training for three key reasons:

- First for life saving to be effective basic life support skills need to be started immediately and cannot wait for the defibrillator to be fetched
- A time of stress is not the best time to learn how to use the defibrillator for the first time
- A defibrillator may not be available where and when one witnesses a cardiac arrest.

For those of us who are a little shy, our training does not involve mouth to mouth; this is in line with European Resuscitation Guidelines. We will release more dates after Christmas.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Bluebird Film Night:**  
Monday 15th December  
5pm

**2015 AGM:**  
Wednesday 25th March  
7pm

### 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.

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.

### THE CAMPBELLS: BLUEBIRD FILM NIGHT

Donald Stevens (a member of the Bluebird Design Team) is presenting a film and Q & A session with to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Donald Campbell breaking both land and water speed records:

This will be held at The Hawkhurst Kino Cinema on Monday 15th December, from 5pm until 6pm. Please contact [brindles@uwclub.net](mailto:brindles@uwclub.net) for tickets and more information.

Admission Price: £10. **All proceeds to Hospice in the Weald**

## PLANNING MATTERS

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

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.

## GOOD CAUSE MESSAGES

If you are involved in some good cause or another and you need some publicity please let Peter know in good time so that we can share the news with the membership.

As a rule of thumb we do not want to e-mail members more than once a month and so please do think ahead.

## JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

With the pressures of work and other obligations in the village Peter is finding it hard to juggle the time needed to chair BACS and do justice to this wonderful group of people.

We really need some people who, like the current committee, are doers and are ready to step up and support the running of this pivotal village organisation. It would be good to appoint a chairperson who has the time to do the role justice; if that person is you please talk to Peter well before the AGM.

There are many other roles which need either new blood or support and eventual succession. These include minute keeping, watching local planning, publicity etc. To make BACS work for the village, and you, it would be great to have more people involved in supporting the key activities.

Please consider joining and supporting your committee by either talking to Peter now or coming along to the AGM and putting yourself forward for election.

## NOTICE OF AGM

The 2015 AGM will be held on Wednesday 25th March in the Benenden Village Hall, beginning at 7pm.

I am sure members will understand the importance of not only having transparency, but also demonstrating the transparency in the way in which our 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 accordingly.

In addition, we would like to remind members that at the last AGM we discussed some changes to the wording of our constitution Object 2 from

(ii) To resist any proposals which would adversely affect the environment and amenities of the Parish.

To

(ii) To consider and resist any proposals which would adversely affect or support any proposals which would positively affect the environment and amenities of the Parish.

Notice is hereby given of our intention to adopt this change at the 2015 AGM.

Please note the AGM is only open to current members of BACS.

Following the formal part of the meeting, our very special guest speaker will be Barry Nash from Cheeseman's garage talking on the very exciting: Barry & Neil's Peking to Paris Motor Challenge 2013.

## BENENDEN VILLAGE HOSPITAL DRIVERS

The Village has had the support for quite some years of a volunteer car scheme to take people to hospital or to their doctor for planned treatment, or in other words to take up an agreed appointment. It is not an Emergency service.

The scheme operates through a central booking system currently provided by Peter and Gilly Walton and contacted on 01580 242855. Helping them are a pool of nine village residents who are happy to drive. This is not a taxi service and there is no charge. But the person driving a patient to the hospital or surgery may ask for a small contribution to the cost of fuel used for the journey. Everyone who drives is mature and naturally drives with care. They are also, like all drivers, insured and will have confirmed that their insurance cover includes protection for any person they are voluntarily carrying.

The scheme is not heavily used. For example over the last twelve months, it provided transport for, on average, between 5 and 6 people per month. There was one peak of 11 in a single month but that was very unusual.

After nearly four years the volunteers are of course getting older and some have acquired other family-based activities. The result of this is that the original 14 have shrunk and we could do with some more kind people to step forward and help the village in this way. We are unlikely to ask you to help more than twice in a month. Please think about joining the group and, of course, ring Peter or Gilly on 242855 with any questions.

### SPRING WALK REPORT

This pleasant 6 mile walk passed off with little drama. We passed through some lovely scenery as well as through the grounds of Mountfield Court (Egerton family). After crossing the A21 close to John's Cross we had a minor encounter with some curious friends of the Bovine persuasion.

Twenty or so members leaving left Robertsbridge at 2.00pm on Sunday, 11 May and twenty or so returned, so all in all we managed to bring everyone home. We were blessed with good weather and tea, coffee and cake at the end!

### AUTUMN WALK REPORT

Again about twenty of us departed the car park at Iden Green Pavilion to follow a circular route taking in some rough and rugged landscape around Hinksden and Coldharbour. At one point we lost Alan as he gallantly waited behind to mop up any latecomers but we were all later reunited to finish the walk.

Unlike last year (when we got hit by a nasty wet squall) the weather was set fair and we enjoyed one of the last lovely autumn days of 2014.

Yet again a debt of gratitude to Philip and Alan for reconnoitring the route and producing comprehensive route notes.

## HELP AT HOME AND WITH SHOPPING

Although the comprehensive Parish Plan will be published early in the New Year, the survey has pointed to some simple initiatives which are already underway under various headings.

One of these is for those who can't get to the shops or who have difficulty carrying heavy shopping. Orders rung through to the Village Shop on a Monday by 5pm will be delivered on Thursday afternoon by one of a group of volunteers. If you would like to use this service please contact Tess Noble at the shop on 01580 240508

Also a small group of volunteers have offered to undertake very minor DIY tasks for homeowners who are unable to perform these for themselves. If you would like help with something (a dripping tap, a blown fuse) then contact Phil Robbins on 01580 240793.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Christmas may be around the corner but I know many of you will be thinking further ahead to the New Year and the renewal of your BACS subscription! Yes folks it is that time again when you need to dig deep and pay your annual fee of £5.00 for a single or £10.00 for a family membership.

In a time of rising costs we have managed to keep our subscription fees as low as possible by cutting out the middle man i.e. Royal Mail and sending you a reminder by email and giving you the chance to pay online by bank transfer. Of course those of you who have an aversion to computers will still get your reminders by post or by hand and you can still pay by cash or cheque.

BACS is a lovely organisation and great way to meet people you wouldn't necessarily come across in your day to day dealings in Benenden. There are a number of social events and two very good organised walks, one in spring and the other in autumn. We also keep an eye on planning and other local issues.

We would like to reach out to more people in Benenden so if you know of anyone who is not a member of BACS give us a little mention....Thank you

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### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DRINKS

What a wonderful evening we had to celebrate 25 years of the BACS. Lucy and her team did us proud with glasses of bubbly Prosecco, orange juice and some beautifully presented platters of meat, fish, cheeses, bread etc. The atmosphere was most convivial as upwards of 50 members packed into the Green Room at the Bull. It was lovely to see friends old and new all gathered together chatting away and enjoying what has to be one of the highlights of the BACS 2014 calendar. It was especially good to have Jonathan Strong, our first chairman, join us as well as to see some members who can no longer manage the walks join in with the general bonhomie. Plans for 50<sup>th</sup> celebration are already afoot!

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### THE BACS COMMITTEE

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