Editor’s Column
Anne Fowler writes...

We’re back – almost the end of Summer, where does the time go?
Another packed issue this month, so apologies for all those articles that I could not fit in, I will do my best to include them next month.
The PCSO has reported a high number of distraction burglaries which have taken place recently in our area. The majority of incidents have occurred because properties have been left insecure with either doors unlocked or windows open. The PCSO’s would like to stress the importance of keeping your property secure. A high percentage of burglaries are carried out by opportunists looking for easy access. For more advice on crime reduction please contact our PCSO’s via the police non emergency number 0845 8 505505 or email WallingfordAreaNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police for any urgent matters.. To call anonymously with information about crime - Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or log on to the Crimestoppers website:- www.crimestoppers-uk.org
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
A few words of warning to your readers. On Wednesday, 6th July, I parked my car in Crown Lane in order to collect my neighbour for a hospital appointment. I left the passenger door slightly open and my bag in the footwell while I waited at her door for her. In the few minutes that my attention was on her front door rather than the car, my bag was snatched!
The police were informed, the mobile phone blocked and all credit/debit cards stopped, so the only thing of value to anyone was the bag itself, which was a black ‘Radley’ shoulder bag, and approx £25 in cash.
I am horrified that this sort of opportunistic crime occurred in Benson on a quiet Wednesday morning so please, please warn your readers not to leave valuables in an unlocked car, even for a few seconds.
Anyone with information, should please ring the police non-emergency number 0845 850 5505 and quote crime number MF3862775/11
Karen Bevan

Dear Editor,
I believe that there’s a notice on the war memorial about the folks that have taken care of it.
But there’s no mention of before the war. I know that my grandfather, a Mr Pether, who lived on Castle Square, was the first person to keep the grass etc tidy. In the early 1930s he died and the task was taken over by my father, S. Hewett until he was called to the colours in 1939. From then until 1944 I took over the task. National Service was the reason for stopping. I believe that we were paid a sum of ten shillings and sixpence for a year. It was paid at Christmas.
Yours Sincerely,
A Hewett

Dear Editor,
My 16 year old daughter and I have just returned from a month of volunteering in Ghana, Africa where we spent our time caring for about 50 children at the Eugemot Orphanage in a small town called Hohoe in the Volta Region. It was the most rewarding experience of our lives and although the children live such a harrowing, brutal existence, with no fresh water and very limited medical supplies, they were all amazingly strong, and happy individuals who are desperately in need of supplies.
One of the things we didn’t want to do when we got back was to forget the awfully harsh world which they exist in and we both wanted to try and help them in any small way that we can. We would therefore like to ask all Benson Bulletin readers to donate any old flip-flops, crocs, or any other lightweight footwear which their children may have outgrown. The children at the orphanage run around and play on extremely rough ground, and their feet and lower legs are covered in scars and sores which could be prevented if they had some form of footwear to protect them from the rocks and gravel. Any donations can be left in the plastic box outside of 3, St Helen’s Crescent, Benson up until the end of September.
Thanking you all in advance for your donations.
Sue and Sophie Clark

Dear Editor,
I have read with interest the article about Mrs Dotchin and her retirement. I was a pupil at Benson school until 1953 when I went to Wallingford Grammar School. I remember Mr Bennet the Headmaster and also Mr Osborne (I think his name was). Yes I remember the 4 classrooms and Pengilleys Field as the playing field for Sports Days. I would be interested to know Mrs Dotchins maiden name, as we may well remember each other. I used to live at Sunnyside from 1947 to 1953.
Hope I may receive a reply,
John Webb (My parents were Kitty & Stan Pether.)
(Any replies can be passed to John via the BB AF)
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Mill Stream Day Centre

John Glavey, writes...

Our second “Grand Book sale of 2011” takes place on Saturday September 24th at the Day Centre between 10am – 4pm.
Please mark that date in your diary and come to the Day Centre on SATURDAY 24TH BETWEEN 10AM – 4PM to browse the amazing and comprehensive selection of excellent quality books we will have available, before staggering home with an armful of all the books you’ve bought!
We are happy to receive any donations of books people wish to make so please drop them in at the Day Centre.
The money the Day Centre raises from activities such as this BOOK SALE is vital to us. Please remember we are totally independent of national and local government funding. We rely on generous donations from a number of organisations but most importantly on your support.
So come and meet your friends, have a cup of coffee and stock up with some great reading!

GRAND BOOK SALE
SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER
10AM – 4PM AT THE DAY CENTRE
Look forward to seeing you then!

But before I go, here are the winners of 400 club July draw:
1st Prize £50.00 to M .Cherry
2nd Prizes £40.00 each to R. Newman & S. Russell
3rd Prizes £30.00 to P. Stephenson & S. Gibson
4th Prizes £20.00 to A. Perfect & A. Smith
5th Prizes £10.00 to N. Glyn & Mr/Mrs Brooker
Why not join our 400 club support the day and have a mild flutter?
Contact Ian Brown at the Day Centre.

Bingo Night!
Every Tuesday in Benson Parish Hall
Do you enjoy a game of Bingo, if so please come along on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall 7.00pm

Mill Stream Surgery

Fran Butler, writes...

It’s seasonal flu immunisation time again!

We are have set up clinics for vaccination against seasonal flu, as usual. Seasonal flu is an unpleasant illness and can lead to really serious diseases like bronchitis or pneumonia. If you are aged 65 and over, or if you are under 65 and have
• diabetes,
• chronic heart disease,
• chronic lung disease,
• chronic renal disease,
• chronic liver disease
• a suppressed immune system
• asthma requiring continuous inhaled steroids, or have had an exacerbation requiring steroid tablets
or if you have had a stroke or TIA, then please contact the surgery to book your appointment for your annual flu vaccination. We will be running a large Saturday flu clinic on 5th November, as well as one on Tuesday 25th October for those of you who prefer a weekday.

Children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract infections are included in the flu vaccination campaign too but we will book them into Emma Tentori’s routine surgery.
If you are in receipt of a carer’s allowance, or are a main carer, it may also be advisable to be vaccinated.
This seasonal vaccine protects against 3 strains of flu and so it is advised even if you were given the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine previously.
Pregnant women who are not in a risk group as above are advised to receive the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Don’t leave yourself unprotected – phone for an appointment today.

N.B. If you are coming to a flu vaccination clinic appointment, if you are able to walk here please do so, so as to save parking space for those needing to come by car.
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Constituency Report
John Howell MP, writes ...

Since Parliament began the Summer Recess it has been recalled twice. The first time was the day immediately after Recess began when Parliament was recalled to debate public confidence in the media. It was then recalled on 11th August to hear a statement and to debate public order following the riots. A statement was also made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, on the recent turbulence in the financial markets, economic growth and debt.

The Media
A small number of constituents wrote to me about phone-hacking and a few more about News Corporation itself. News Corporation bid to acquire BSkyB has been withdrawn. This and the continuing police investigation and the recently announced independent inquiry were welcomed. The inquiry will get to the bottom of what happened and also look at the wider issue of cross-media ownership. The public inquiry will be led by Lord Justice Leveson and it will be able to summon witnesses under oath. There are two parts to this work: first, a full investigation into wrongdoing in the press and the police, including the failure of the first police investigation; second, a review of regulation of the media. The Government will progress both these elements as quickly as possible, whilst being mindful of the ongoing criminal investigations.

The Riots
The scenes of riot and looting that we have seen on our television screens and in our communities were a shock to most people. It was criminality, pure and simple which needs, as the Prime Minister made clear, to be firmly put down. Responsibility for crime always lies with the criminal. But crime has a context and we must not shy away from confronting this. There has been no better example of our broken society than the riots of the last week. Of course it is true that we also saw some outstanding examples of bravery and community spirit in the aftermath of the riots. But these do not prove that society is not broken. They prove that there is enough decency left in society to give us hope that the problem can be fixed.

There is much ongoing debate on the issues and the Home Affairs Select Committee will be reporting on it in due course. I am confident that their report will make a serious and significant contribution.

The Economy
During the recall of Parliament the Chancellor made a statement on the turbulence in the financial markets and economic growth. The chancellor declared that it was the “most dangerous time for the global economy” since the 2008 crash. But he insisted that the UK remained a “safe haven” in the global crisis and stressed that he would continue with the government’s deficit-reduction programme.

More information on my work is available on my website www.johnhowellmp.com

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I am now nearly five months into my term of office at South Oxfordshire District Council and have been very busy on the planning committee which I enjoy very much and all the training!! I have also been on the Community Investment Fund supporting community projects in the district. S.O.D.C is giving eight local voluntary groups a total of £450,000 for building and refurbishment projects to benefit the whole community, and I was very impressed with the hard work and dedication people put into their communities.

Delivering Homes For All
Fairmile hospital development at Cholsey is now well in progress where over the next four years 354 homes will be built. Chinor Crescent Work Development are building 174 new homes, which is going well, with the first ones having already been sold. Great Western Park will also provide 3,300 new homes and much needed community facilities over the next 12 years.

Helping People Feel Safe and Secure
The District Council, Town Councils and the Police continue to fund 61 CCTV cameras across the district. The Councils Reports Development Team have been working with Community Safety Partners to identify areas of need for young people’s ‘street sports’ facilities, mobile sports facilities and councils have provided outreach sport sessions.

The Chairman of S.O.D.C., Felix Bloomfield, recently attended the start of work to extend

Didcot Skate Park
This has proven a popular facility for youngsters not just in Didcot, but across south Oxfordshire. The Chairman said ‘It’s fantastic to see so many enthusiastic and talented youngsters using this facility that many of them help design, and it is a pleasure to be involved in the funding of such worthy projects.’

Best in the Country!
You will all be pleased to learn that South Oxfordshire has pushed Staffordshire Moorlands off the top of the recycling and composting league table for England after becoming the first local authority to recycle, refuse or compost more than 70% of its waste, according to research by Letsrecycle.com. This is something we can all be proud of!

Mill Stream Day Centre
The Mill Stream Day Centre in Benson is a wonderful caring place for the elderly to meet for company, lunch and to enjoy a change of scenery with local people. The centre is run by mostly unpaid local people that need your support to help raise funds to improve and keep the centre the fantastic place it is today. If anyone has any books or bric ‘a’ brac please call me Cllr Rachel Wallis (01491 836353) and I will be happy to collect. The Chairman and myself have already made a start collecting from friends and family.

I would like to say well done to all those that give your time freely to your community. It doesn’t go unnoticed, and it’s what helps to make our community so special today.

Young Achievers Award
At South Oxfordshire District Council we are keen to acknowledge young people who show dedication in citizenship, the arts or sports. We are offering 11 - 18 year olds living in South Oxfordshire the opportunity to receive an award of up to £250. They may be eligible for an award if they can demonstrate high levels of commitment in one of these areas:

- citizenship - for young people who show dedication to their community such as helping with community cleanup projects, volunteering at a wildlife sanctuary or getting involved in politics
- arts - for young people who can demonstrate high achievement in music, dance, drama, creative writing, painting, sculpture, photography, video production, multi-media or crafts
- sport for young people who have represented Oxfordshire (or higher) within the last year

Youth people can apply online themselves for an arts or sports award. However, citizenship awards are by nomination only.

If you would like more information about the Young Achievers Awards or any of the other grant schemes we offer at South Oxfordshire please visit: http://www.southoxon.gov.uk//grants/ or call us on 01491 823423.
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Parish Councillors Report  
*Jon Fowler, writes ...*

I hope everyone enjoyed / is enjoying their holiday time.  

**Benson Library**  
A reminder that Oxfordshire County Council’s consultation on the future of the Library service concludes on the 30th September. If you haven’t already made your views known you can do so at http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite/councilservices/libraryserviceconsultation There is also more information from the Friends of Benson Library website www.fobl2011.com

**School Crossing Patrol**  
Oxford County Council have agreed to fund a ‘crossing patrol person’ who will operate from Castle Square and it is hoped to have everything in place for the start of the new school term on 8th September.

**Henley Challenge Triathlon**  
A reminder that Henley Challenge Triathlon is taking place on 18th September which will result in more through traffic than normal which will being directed along the A4074 and through Benson village to pick up the B4009 due to various road closures for the cycling event.

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**Outreach Post Office in the Pavilion**  
The post office is doing a good trade. The post mistress has suggested that a village organisation might like to run a coffee morning there to catch the passing trade. This should be on a Tuesday or Thursday morning so that it doesn’t clash with the Day Centre coffee mornings on Wednesdays. If an organisation would like to consider this as a fund raising activity, please contact the parish office (upstairs in the Parish Hall)

**Litter in the Play Areas, Rivermead and on Sunnyside Football Pitches**  
During the summer, especially with fine weather, we tend to get a lot of extra litter in these places which it costs you as council tax payers money for us to get it picked up (apart from the areas where some public spirited residents pick it up.) Please encourage your children, family, friends etc to use our plentiful litter bins or take it home instead of leaving an unsightly mess around.

*Mrs Sue Cooper* (Parish Clerk)  
Benson Parish Council

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**Parish Notes**

**Hedge and Vegetation Trimming**  
Householders are responsible for keeping vegetation which originates on their ground under control. So if you have a hedge or weedy patch which spreads over the road or path next to your house, please can you keep it trimmed back so that the route is kept clear.

**Wheelie Bins**  
Rubbish bins are supposed to be collected from, and returned to, just inside the curtilage, i.e. just inside your garden. Please can you help to keep our paths clear by leaving your bins in the right place and not stuck across the highway? I have asked SODC and the bin men to do the same after collection. If you find bins left in the wrong place, please can you notify admin. southoxford@biffa.co.uk

**Digital TV Switchover**  
*Jayne Bullock, writes ...*

Oxfordshire will begin switching to digital-only TV from 14 September 2011. This means the existing analogue TV signal will be switched off and replaced with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

Some parishes in South Oxfordshire will not switch to Digital until April 2012. To find out when a postcode area switches over to digital, check with the postcode checker at: http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/postcodechecker/

Any analogue television left unconverted will no longer be able to receive TV programmes after the switchover. Oxfordshire Rural Community Council will be running advice points in Didcot and Witney to help with any questions you have about switchover from 10am to 4pm on 14th, 15th, 28th and 29th September in:

• Didcot - Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot
• Witney - The Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney

Or call the DigitalUK help line 08456 50 50 50  
Opening hours: Mon - Fri 8am - 7pm, Sat 9am - 5pm.
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www.arbocare.co.uk NATIONAL TRUST APPROVED
Well, the Trustees of FOBL finally met with a team of three from the County Council in late July for discussions on the future of Benson library. We put our case forward suggesting that the current proposals are unfair on all rural libraries and on Benson in particular. We showed OCC an alternative way of looking at the stats available and they took our views away for consideration. We also agreed to put all our points into a written submission document and to present that to OCC before the consultation period closes.

At the moment OCC are being very bullish on the basic problem – they wish different libraries to provide hugely varying amounts of volunteer help – and are reluctant to admit this is unfair. Some will not need volunteers whilst others may need to find 60+ people to help them stay open. OCC also expect existing Friends groups to take full responsibility for selecting and screening suitable volunteers (since we would be working with children & vulnerable people) and to pay for all this. Under the current proposals, we are also to organise rosters & replacements and organise training – although they will provide the latter.

The Trustees still believe that providing 2/3 volunteer staff in Benson Library (remember we will have to double up to prevent people working alone) is a very big “ask”, indeed maybe too much to ask, and will continue to try and reduce this. On the positive side, OCC say they are very interested in working together with us on any possible future developments – post office etc - and were very positive to some of our proposals.

We intend to present our consultation submission and a petition of over 1,000 signatures to OCC in a few weeks and then we will have to await the final decision. The Trustees firmly believe that we can save our library, but it will be a hard fight and we need all our supporters to give the help so generously offered thus far.

I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to fill in and return a Survey form. We had an excellent response rate and can now offer well researched data on our library. All around the country, people are campaigning to save their local libraries from closure. In Suffolk, a whopping 3893 responses were received on their library consultation and over 80% of responses insisted that things should stay as they are. We need create this kind of impact ourselves so PLEASE, if you haven’t filled in an individual response to the County’s proposals yet (available on line or in the library), this is vital and we urge you to do so now and tell OCC what you think of their proposals.

Finally, for any new readers or those new to FOBL, if you would like to help save Benson library, please visit our website: www.fobl2011.com
Here you will find out what Friends of Benson Library is all about and how you can participate in the campaign to save our library.
We also need more followers on twitter: @bensonlibrary
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Bus Services

Elizabeth Leppard, writes ...

August 2011

An informal meeting with regard to bus services serving Benson and surrounding villages which may change due to Oxfordshire County Council budget cuts.


It was agreed that we should ensure that buses connecting with other routes should be a priority and to make sure that the drivers advise the other drivers of passengers wishing to make a connection.

It was agreed to include in the new parish plan an item with regard to:- Would you use bus transport if it came through your village e.g. Berrick and Roke.

To request the bus company that 132 RAF Benson to make a detour to Hampden Way Ewelme via Benson Shillingford, Wallingford if residents make this request.

Perhaps amalgamate services 130/132 if we are in the situation that one of the services may go.

Perhaps the 125 Wallingford bus – Fridays only to incorporate the smaller villages e.g. Britwell, Berrick Roke etc.

It would be useful to have the number of passengers using the services which come through Benson.

It was agreed to request residents from Ewelme, Berrick Salome, Roke, Roke Marsh and Benson to answer the following four questions:-

Q1. Would you appreciate public transport to come through your village?
Q2. Would you use it?
Q3. Preferred time to pick up the transport in your village and the preferred time of the return journey.
Q4. Q3 if so, how many times would you use the service per week?

Please return your answers by the end of October to the local shops and The Parish Hall, Benson letterbox.

Thank you.

www.bensonbulletin.com

Three Peaks Challenge Completed

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored or gave me a donation for attempting the National Three Peaks Challenge.

We started at 8:15am on the Friday it took just over 3 hours to get up and down Snowdon, then on to the Lake District reaching Wasdale Head and setting off up Scafell Pike at 4:37pm 3 hours later we were back down and heading off to Scotland we got to Fort William and the base of Ben Nevis at 2:10am Saturday and started the ascent and back down 5 hours later total time 22 hours 50 minutes well within the 24 hours. I raised just over £260 which I will be sending to Helen & Douglas house

Thanks again, Geoff Davis.

RNLI Flag Day Collection

I would like to thank everyone in Wallingford, Benson and Cholsey who gave so generously to our Flag Day collections on 1st and 2nd July.

We raised the wonderful sum of £2049.95 for the RNLI, a fraction up on last year! So well done, all of you. Thank you especially to the army of collectors without whom we could not do, and grateful thanks to those who responded to my plea in the magazines for help and to the unseen collectors and contributors in Mariot, Oakdale and Meriden Courts and Sotwell Hill House.

Thank you Sue our treasurer who counts the money so quickly and efficiently.

Janet Evans (Flag Day organiser Wallingford and District RNLI)

Recovery

I would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who has sent cards and good wishes to me during my recent stay in hospital. I’m pleased to say I’m well on the way to a good recovery.

Bridget Jones

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I wonder how many of you have noticed a memorial stone while visiting Rivermead. It is called the Spitfire Fountain Stone. It was presented by E.W. Williams in 1944 representing the Airmen and Women from the Photographic Section to thank the ladies who ran the Benson Services Canteen during the 2nd World War.

The plaque (photo above) reads:

THE SPITFIRE FOUNTAIN
PRESENTED BY
THE BENSON SERVICES CANTEEN
1944

and below this is a further inscription:
PRESENTED BY
E.J.WILLIAMS
1944

The canteen was held in the Free Church Hall, known as the “Tin Tabernacle”, in Watlington Road.

Originally there was a fountain here which can be seen on the second photograph. A number of questions remain to be answered so if anyone can help with answers or have any further information please get in touch.
What happened to the fountain, does it still exist and if so where is it?
Who was E.J. Williams?
Perhaps someone in the village might remember the circumstances surrounding the event.

BENSON HISTORY GROUP NEEDS YOU!

Are you an experienced IT user? Could you spare time to help our over-worked photo and document archivist?
No pay, I’m afraid, but it could become an interesting new hobby!
Please contact Tom Stevenson at thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com

Benson Library Rhymetime

If you are a parent or carer with a child of under 5 years of age then please do come along and join us at Benson Library for a free activity session with songs and rhymes, puppets and instruments.
Our next session is on:

Friday 30th September 2011
10-10.30am

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you!

Hilary, Pat and Alison.
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St Helen’s Benson
Revd John Burrell, writes...

It is wonderful to be home! Not that I have ever lived in Benson before. But 25 years ago I was ordained in Dorchester Abbey and I served as Curate at All Saints’, Didcot. I studied at Reading University and Oxford (the Queen’s College and Wycliffe Hall) and my parents lived for a time at Goring Heath. My sister lives in Kidlington.

I have always been passionate about the Thames Valley. I was a keen oarsman at university and loved both the river and the friendships made through rowing. Now we live only 100 metres from the River, although I am not expecting to start rowing again!

We are thoroughly enjoying the village of Benson and the beauty of the surrounding area. And we have been touched by the warmth of your welcome.

After my time at Didcot, my wife, Suzan and I and our three children returned to South Africa (Suzan is from Pretoria and I had worked there previously). I was a school chaplain and then a parish priest, ending up as an archdeacon. This was during the demise of apartheid and the emergence of the new South Africa. It was a huge privilege to witness these historic events. Eleven years later we returned to the Coventry Diocese where I was Rector of the MidFosse Parishes (Lighthorne, Chesterton, Moreton Morrell and Newbold Pacey). I was Area Dean for a group of 29 parishes stretching from Stratford-upon-Avon to Shotteswell, just North of Banbury. Ten years later we have come to Benson, and as I said at the beginning, it feels like home.

It is a great privilege to serve in the Church but also a daunting responsibility. Just in the last few weeks we have witnessed some terrible events in the Horn of Africa, in Norway and now in London and other cities of our land. And the global financial crisis seems to be far from over. We are in great need.

At the root of many of our problems is a human need: a need for meaning, security, hope and a future. And, often standing in the way of meeting these needs are human failings of greed, selfishness and pride. We need to discover or re-discover our spiritual roots.

St Helen’s Church has been a place of prayer and worship for centuries. The PCC would like it to become more available for the whole community, not just on Sunday mornings. We are working on a plan to keep it unlocked during the day so that parishioners and visitors can use it as a place of prayer, a place of connection with our past and a place of inspiration and hope for the future.

The clergy team has trebled! Not only is there myself and Associate Priest, the Revd Jean Travis, whom many of you will know well, but we also have a Curate. He is the Revd David Gifford.

David lives in Dorchester with his wife Francine. He studied at Cuddesdon Theological College and was ordained Deacon in July. He will be with us for a few years as he continues his practical training.

During the week David works in London as CEO of the Council for Christians and Jews. So he is a self-supporting Curate and will work in the Parish on Wednesdays and at weekends. If you would like to have a chat we would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you again for your welcome and we look forward to working together in the coming years.

From the Registers at St Helen’s Benson

Baptisms:
10th July Aoife Margaret Markey
17th July Zara Mary Hollis
31st July Jasper Hector Carey McCormick
21st August Kayla May Bramall

Weddings:
2nd July Christopher Steven Parker & Gemma Faith Stevens
28th August Thomas Michael Deary & Nicola Charlotte Lane

Funerals:
19th July Helen Charlotte Taylor
11th August Helen May Lane
The Church of England Parish of Benson
St Helen’s Church
Vicar: The Revd John Burrell tel: 01491 832008
email: giburrell@btinternet.com
Associate Priest: The Revd Jean Travis tel: 01491 838713
Curate: The Revd David Gifford tel: 01865 343309
Barbara Smart tel: 01491 837951
Gary Jones tel: 01491 839289
email: benson.wardens@btinternet.com

Sunday Services
8.30am Holy Communion (BPC)
10.00am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
with Children’s Club and Creche
3rd Sunday of the month: Orchestra and a service for all the Family.
Further details:
www.achurchnearyou.com/benson-st-helen/
For Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please contact one of the clergy.

The Catholic Parish of St Birinus
Dorchester-on-Thames
Priest: Fr. John Osman, MA., STL.,
Bridge House Presbytery
1 Bridge End, Dorchester-on-Thames
Telephone: 01865 340417

Holy Mass
Weekdays 9.30am
Sat 6.30pm Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sun 9.30am (Berinsfield Church)
11.00am Solemn Mass

Confessions
Sat 5.45 - 6.15 or upon request
Exposition & Benediction of The Blessed Sacrament: First Sunday of each Month 5-6pm
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Sun 9.30am during Berinsfield Mass

Wallingford Quakers
13 Castle Street, Wallingford
Enquiries to Warden Tel: 01491 837835

Meeting for Worship
Sunday at 10.30am with Children’s Class.
Discussion groups during the week.

Ridgeway Community Church
The Ridgeway Christian Centre
21b/22 St Mary’s Street, Wallingford
Elder: Revd Bernard Thompson
Telephone: 01491 834568

Sunday Services
10.00am Worship & Ministry at Christian Centre
For all other activities see our website
www.ridgeway-church.org.uk or telephone 01491 832718

Church of England Parish of Berrick Salome
St Helen’s Church
Vicar: The Revd Ian Cohen
The Vicarage, 58 Brinkinfield Rd, Chalgrove
Churchwardens: Dr. Marian Shaw - 01865 890915

Sunday Services at 11.00am
1st Sunday of Month - Family Service
2nd Sunday - Holy Communion (BPC)
Other Sundays - Family Communion
Baptisms & Weddings to be arranged with the Vicar

Wallingford Methodist Church
St Leonards Square, Wallingford
Minister: Revd Dr David Rankin
Tel: 01235 813242
Email: minister@wallingfordmethodistchurch.org
Website: www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Sunday Services at 10.30am & 6.30pm
Lunch on Tuesdays 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Friendship Group alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm
‘Tots Time’ Wednesday 9.30am - 11.00am
Boys & Girls Brigade Wednesday evenings
Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 - 12.00 noon
All welcome, please contact David Rankin for details

Wallingford Baptist Church
Thames St, Wallingford
Minister: Pastor Simon Hudson
Tel: 01491 839904
Email: pastormonwbc@ymail.com
www.wallingford.org.uk

Sunday Services at 10.30am & 7.00pm
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday each month
The Bird Spot
*Tom Stevenson, writes...*

1066 and all that. So what has that to do with birds I hear you ask? If you can be bothered to stay with me you might learn – eventually. One of the problems with knowing a little about birds is that you get plagued with queries of the form “I saw this strange bird the other day…….” Followed by a description which could as easily refer to an elephant as a Dodo. Don’t get me wrong I am always interested and, just occasionally, I am able to help though I am afraid it is often “no it wouldn’t have been a Yellow Wagtail in February as they are enjoying the warmer weather in Africa. Try looking at pictures of Grey Wagtails as they stay with us through the winter.”

If you do see an odd looking bird start by assuming that it is not strange or unusual but a common bird that just looks odd. Look through your Observer book of birds four or five times bearing in mind that you can get aberrant colouring and that females and juveniles often look very different to adult males, which are more often pictured. When you have exhausted all that then go down to the library and look through a better bird book that shows the different plumages of all the common birds and search thoroughly. If you still haven’t found it then is the time to start considering that it really could be strange. Write as much about it than you can including where it was, what it was doing and as detailed a description as you can. Photos are great even if rather distant. Then consult an expert.

And the connection, albeit tenuous, with 1066? Between about 1892 and 1930 an unusual number of very rare birds were apparently claimed from a small area around Hastings. What was unusual was not the rarity of the birds found, by today’s standard, but the fact that they were concentrated in such a small area. In fact, if it was a con, and it is generally accepted to have been one, it was very well thought out, as nearly all of the species have since been seen in this country.

I know it is often called the silly season when newspapers have nothing very important to write about get worked up about unusual topics but some of the recent articles concerning ragwort need clarification. One of the worst columnists is Robin Page in the Telegraph, who really should know better, but I guess his main concern is getting his few pence for getting articles printed.

Yes ragwort can poison animals but only when incorporated in hay used as food. Animals are much too clever to eat the growing plant and you often see plants in horse paddocks left well alone by the animals. It does not poison people who inhale its seeds, and it is not illegal to grow or allow ragwort to grow on your land, although in exceptional circumstances someone could be ordered to control its spread. It is a plant upon which at least 30 insect species, many rare, entirely rely. Ragwort is also an important nectar and pollen source for hundreds of species of butterflies, bees, moths, beetles and flies, helping to maintain what remains of our wildlife. I wonder if Mr Page gets out in the countryside – perhaps he should visit a local nature reserve where he would see ragwort covered by a wide range of insects. I can only repeat what Neil Jones who has, and is, making a study of the plant says “I can categorically say THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT LIVING RAGWORT POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO LIVESTOCK IN THE UK. There is a problem with hay but it only occasionally causes problems.”

I do control ragwort on the Ewelme Nature Reserve but only because I do not want it taking over to the detriment of a wider range of plant species – there will always be a place for a few ragwort plants if I have anything to do with it.

Email: thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com
Tel: 01491 836888
Mob: 07773251301

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**Benson Library Opening Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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Forthcoming Events

Rugby World Cup from Sat 10th Sep – Sun 23rd Oct
Watch these early morning games -5.30am/8am - with fellow fans. Winning Score Pool. Breakfast & Pint £6.00!
For full schedule and ticket bookings, contact us now.

Live Music - ‘Nameless’ Sat 24th of Sep 9pm

TUG OF WAR Competition Sun 25th of Sep 3pm
5 members per team – Sign up now!.... promises to be a lot of fun

Monthly Restaurant Theme Evenings
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Crown Inn Benson - A meeting place for the whole family
Friends of Benson School  
Debbie Lock, writes ...

After a rather dismal June, the weather was very kind to us for our annual Summer Fair on 3 July 2011 and we enjoyed a marvellous afternoon of fun and frolics in the lovely summer sunshine. Thanks to a wonderful band of helpers who were on the playing field from 8am, the stalls were all in place in good time and we welcomed a great number of visitors from Benson and the surrounding areas.

The event was very well attended and it was fantastic to see everyone enjoying themselves and helping to raise valuable funds for the school. We were very grateful to Geoff Stock for once again supplying the Rifle Range, Stocks, Skittles and PA System. Our thanks also go to Benson Wine, Chiltern Food & Florist and The Co-operative for supplying prizes. It was lovely to see the Friends of Benson Library and we hope that they managed to gain some new supporters for their campaign, which will benefit the whole community.

The highlights of the afternoon included the Egg Throwing Competition, the School Choir and Dance Club, Tombola, Barbeque, Cafe and Welly Wanging, to name but a few and we raised in the region of £2,500.

This year FoBS have concentrated funds on replacing the rather out-of-date library and creating an allotment as well as supporting various smaller projects around the school. We are always looking for new ideas and new members to our Committee so please do get in touch if you would like to help. Email: debslock@hotmail.com

RAF Benson Community Primary School

We are delighted to have been able to appoint Mrs Steph Fawdry as our substantive Head teacher for September. In fact, Mrs Fawdry has been our temporary Head teacher since September 2010, during which time the school has already really moved ahead and we now look forward to starting the new school year with an additional teacher and single-year classes instead of the mixed-year groups of the past few years and I confidently predict that we are soon going to move even higher up the achievement scale in the coming year. Remember, we are a State primary school that just happens to be located within the perimeter of RAF Benson from where we draw most of our children and governors. At the moment we have only 5 children from outside the base, but hope to attract many more because we have plenty of room for expansion and could easily accommodate a lot more children across the age groups.

Children of Service parents experience frequent changes of school as their parents are moved around the world and on average will attend 3 or 4 schools during the primary phase of their education. We are very experienced with managing the educational, social and emotional challenges that can arise from their moves of school and have set new high standards of pastoral care that we are occasionally asked to share with other schools.

Our parent and community governors are also largely drawn from the RAF community so they, too, frequently move on to another station and for that reason I would like to invite anyone interested in becoming a school governor to contact me (01491 838735) or the Head teacher (01491 836460) to find out more about becoming a community or Local Authority governor – there are few other more important and rewarding yet not too time-consuming community services you could provide to a primary school within the Parish of Benson. 

Martyn Spence
Chairman of Governors

St Laurence Primary School  
Warborough

St Laurence Primary School in Warborough will be holding an Open Morning on Thursday 6th October from 9.30 am till 11.00 am and would like to invite you to come and see our ‘Happy, friendly and hardworking’ school. Contact Julie Meadows on 01865 858270 for more details.
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Westbrook House, Old London Road, Benson, Oxon OX10 6RR
For everyone, welcome to the new academic year 2011/12. It gives me great pleasure to welcome a swathe of new faces and many familiar ones amongst children and parents to our happy and successful school. We look forward to another year of fun, good progress and high achievement in many fields ranging from the 3 Rs to sport and music. The success of our school was underlined at the end of last term by the very heartening academic results of our departing Year 6 year group. To that year group - I’d like to wish you all every success in your next school and congratulate you on being part of the highest achieving year 6 group at Benson in recent years. Well done. Recognition must also go to the hard work and impressive professionalism of all the staff involved in helping these children achieve so much of their potential. Reflecting further on recent achievements it is very encouraging for everyone connected with the school that the focus of the School Development Plan is having an effect. Last year we concentrated in particular on:
• Raising expectation of achievement – this applies as much to adults as children
• Strengthening the senior management team who lead and manage the school
I’m pleased to report good progress on both fronts has the direct impact of improving outcomes for all children.

But that was last year. In the coming year we will again be looking to raise the bar. Our priorities for the year ahead will include:
• Personalising the “challenge” for all children
• Improving interventions for Gifted & Talented and More Able
• Greater volunteer engagement

On this latter point relating to volunteers we have an diverse and active set of about 40 people in our community who regularly (and irregularly!) give up their valuable to come into school and help. Contributions as apparently simple as reading with children are critical in helping those children make progress – regular reading at home is such a key part of basic academic progress in the primary years. Thank you for helping motivate and inspire our children. I know from speaking with a number of you that you also find the experience worthwhile and fulfilling.

Linked to these thanks for our existing volunteers is an appeal for more. There is always the scope to use more hands in our classrooms. If you’re reading this you’ve already qualified as competent for the role! Besides that there are many other ways to help - from helping with school clubs to explaining your job to classes. Please get in touch with me direct or via the school office.

I’ll round off by thanking our Head Teacher, Linda Neely, for her hard work and dedication in leading our school to the levels of success and achievement we’re now at. Between us Linda and I know that the school can improve further and we’re committed to achieving that.

Watlington Art is holding its 22nd Annual Art Exhibition & Sale on Saturday 17th September (10am-5pm) and Sunday 18th September (11am-4pm) at Watlington Primary School, Watlington. All are welcome to view the exhibition, which features a diverse range of work by artists from our region and beyond. This year, once again, we are delighted to be able to offer for sale works of art to suit all tastes and budgets, including watercolours, oils, acrylics, textiles and photography, plus a selection of 3D items in ceramics, wood, metals and stone. The art is displayed in the light and airy Harman Hall at Watlington Primary School, which is annually transformed into an atmospheric and impressive gallery.

Refreshments and delicious home-made cakes will be available all weekend and there will be various creative activities on offer for children, to enable parents to browse in peace. All proceeds from the event go to Watlington Primary School to support the artistic and creative development of the children. A gallery of artwork by Watlington pupils will be on view at the exhibition.

For more information, please visit our website: www.watlington-art.co.uk
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www.nixercise.co.uk
Before the summer holidays Pre-school ended a great school year; the team achieved and implemented, so much, a great Ofsted report, new equipment for the children, staff changes, Easter raffle, Cake Sale, Open Morning, RAF trip, & achievement certificates (I love seeing how excited and proud the children are when showing off their achievement certificates when being collected!) And, now it’s the Summer Play-scheme!
June brought our Open Morning. Every parent likes to know how their child is learning and growing especially in environments away from home. So when the opportunity of an Open Morning at Pre-school came, other parents and I went along to meet our children’s key workers. Every child has their individual profile held by their key worker which is always available for parents to peruse; they include photos & the achievements of your child.
It’s also an opportunity for prospective parents to pop along, have a cup of tea, yummy cake and chat with both staff and other parents. It is also great for Daddy’s to come to; my little boy had lots of fun showing Daddy the ‘big hole’ in the garden!
In July we carried out our annual visit to RAF Benson (see photo on front cover). After a head count on to the bus we made our way to the base. Much to the children’s amusement, a perfectly timed helicopter flew over us and in to land, which led to a chorus of cheers from everyone!
The expected rain held off and the children were greeted with 2 Police Cars, a Puma & Merlin Helicopter, along with a Fire Engine! I think the main dilemma was which vehicle to explore first. I mean the Police Cars & Fire Engine both have sirens & flashing lights whilst the Helicopters have lots of gadgets and of course fly! The crewman’s harness in the Merlin was very popular, as was the speaker on the Police Car that resounded in some great ‘hellos’ during our visit. It was great to see all the children enjoying themselves and exploring every detail of the vehicles. The rain finally gave in and crashed the party whilst we waited patiently for the coach to take us back to Pre-school. There was a mad dash & a few drowned rats when we returned!
So now the Summer holidays are in full swing and the Play-scheme has been a great success so far; art and crafts, face painting, bulb planting, rocket building etc, every Tuesday & Thursday mornings (10am – 12 noon).
I would like to say, on behalf of the committee, a huge thank you to all the staff, along with a farewell to Sally who after 4 years has decided to move on to pastures new.
We look forward to another great year in September.
If you would like to find out more about Benson Community Pre-school please visit our website www.bensonpreschool.co.uk, email admin@bensonpreschool.org.uk or call 01491 824042 during pre-school hours.

The Friends Of Ewelme Church Charity  [1138727] invite you to:
“LIFE IN 15TH CENTURY EWELME”
a talk by Dr John Goodall, author of ‘God’s House at Ewelme’ on Friday 14th October at 7.30pm in Ewelme Church.
Doors open at 7.00pm. Pre-booked tickets £15 each to include a glass of wine. Tickets on the night £17.50 each.
Tickets are available from Deborah Whitfeld [835262], Chips Gell [825826] and from Ewelme Store. Alternatively send a cheque [made payable to Friends of Ewelme Church] and s.a.e. to The Hyde, Ewelme. Oxon. OX10 6HP.

I hope it will not seem too early to remind you that the annual Art Exhibition is due to take place on Friday 7th October and Saturday 8th October. We welcome all visitors to come and see our pictures and will let you know more details in next month’s Benson Bulletin but just wanted to make sure you were able to keep the date free to come and see our work.
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Local Clubs & Societies

Clubs Sec: Jill Parrick

The Bensington Society

Following our summer break the next meeting of the Society will be on Friday 30th September when we will hear from Derrick Fulford giving us an insight into ‘A Day in the Life of a JP’. The usual excellent buffet supper plus glass/bottle of wine, beer or soft drink will be available to purchase and there will be a chance to catch up on current village issues and news. Our Outings Organiser will be updating us on what is to come in the way of trips; the next being our visit to the Perimeter Olympic Park on 8th October.

Outside of the meetings our Committee continues to be busy on behalf of the members. Our Membership Secretary (George Verdon) is representing our interests on the Friends of Benson Library Committee and so keeps us well informed of progress. Our Talks Organiser (Paddy Berger) has now booked speakers up to the end of next year and the Historical Group continues work on the Heritage Trail and the gathering of archive material. Some of our members recently took part in the Victoria County History Archaeological project in Ewelme and organised The Bensington Society stands at the Open days at both Ewelme and the Chalgrove Living History event. It is hoped that this project will move to Benson next year.

Visitors are always very welcome at meetings and details are available in the Benson Library and at www.spanglefish.com/bensingtonsociety. Details of trips can be obtained from Paul Booker on 01491 825864.

Sue Brown (Secretary) 01491 837885

Benson Garden Club

We have had a super summer of visits to gardens near and far. It is always nice to look round other people’s gardens, even if you have no hope of replicating the splendour in your own. Sometimes one little gem stays in your mind and you can have a go at using it sometime later.

On a grand scale, Kiftsgate and Hidcote Gardens were wonderful, while being quite different to each other and so close it was easy to do the two together on one trip. Smaller gardens are no less appealing and the one at Dorchester, with the Abbey as a backdrop was a delight, even going down to the river for added interest. We also had a great plant sale and hope that those of you who patronised our stall in Benson are pleased with your plants. Members are looking forward to our social evening in a members’ garden and still have two more visits planned for August and September. But by the time you read this we will be getting ready for our AGM on October 6th when a very short business session will be followed by a talk on the Woodland Trust. This will conclude a very pleasant season, and then we start all over again with talks in the Parish Hall from November onwards, 7.30 on Thursday evenings as in the diary.

Come to our AGM to find out the detail and enjoy a chat and a cuppa while you make new friends too.

Penny Noble

Benson Circle Dance

DANCE KEEPS YOU HAPPY AND HEALTHY! IT’S TRUE - the Arts Council has published a long list of the physical, mental and personal benefits of dancing! So come along and try CIRCLE DANCE (trial session free!) and see how good it feels to be having fun, making friends and feeling the enormous benefits to the body and mind.

Here are just a few of the benefits listed by the Arts Council:

- Healthier heart and lungs, stronger muscles and bones, better co-ordination, agility and flexibility.
- Improved psychological well-being and greater self-confidence

AND there’s a group right on your doorstep! You don’t need a partner or any experience, and the dances are easy to learn. The classes are friendly, non-competitive, and the motto is ‘there are no mistakes, only variations’. There is a complete variety of music and dances from all round the globe, giving a huge variety of rhythm and styles.

What do the dancers most enjoy about their

Continued overleaf....
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Newcomers are invited for a FREE TRIAL SESSION on 5th or 12th SEPTEMBER in BENSON YOUTH HALL. Just come along or call Lilly for more information - 01367 820143.

Lilly Sell-Dunkley

Benson Trefoil Guild

What a wonderful time we Trefoil’s have had. In May we visited the Aston Pottery – most interesting, then in June we had a wonderful day out to the needle museum at Redditch – amazing place, had a lovely picnic lunch. Then we went to Evesham Country Park, we were blessed with lovely weather. In July we had a lovely lunch and activities with the trefoil Guild from the Cotswold in Jubilee House we had a great time. August is our last outdoor meeting with a meal at the Old Fisherman in Shabbington. Our next meeting is indoors, September 15 at 7.30 in the Millstream Centre. All are welcome who are interested in the Trefoil Guild movement.

Jackie Spence (839934)

Benson Evergreens

Our first meeting after the Summer break takes place on Wednesday 14th September in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm. Entertainment will be provided by Mr Anthony Church, who will talk about ‘The Loyal Company of Town Criers’. Members enjoyed a coach trip to Weston Super Mare during the Summer on a beautiful sunny day.

I look forward to welcoming present members plus anyone who would like to join us on September 14th - only stipulation, you must be sixty or over and live in the Benson area.

Julia Minall telephone 838402.

Benson Tennis Club

After a busy and successful summer, the Benson Tennis Club autumn programme now begins. As always, we welcome new members (check out our website bensontennisclub.co.uk for details), clubnights will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm and the junior coaching programme kicks off with coaches Mandy Nall and Peter Worroll. We will also be running adult/improver one hour coaching sessions on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and adult improver sessions on Tuesdays from 7-9pm (Oct- Mar only).

Congratulations go also to Benson School years 4 & 5 who won the Oxfordshire School County Championships last month. They won through two qualifying rounds, then going through to the finals held at White Horse Tennis centre in Abingdon. They beat four other finalists, fighting off some stiff competition.

If you would like any more information about any of our coaching courses, or have any other queries please email Liz on: liz_btc@yahoo.co.uk

Liz Bowles

Wallingford U3A

At the August Meeting of Wallingford U3A Malcolm Nelson spoke on ‘40 Years of Catching Smugglers’. Mr Nelson recalled his career as a Customs Officer at Heathrow. He described some of the extraordinary ways that smugglers use to conceal and bring drugs through the airport, with photographs of false suitcases, split bananas and reconstructed coconuts. It was all good fun, despite the underlying seriousness of the topic.

On 7th September, Lawrence Clark will speak on ‘Circles of Support for Offenders.’ Lawrence has had considerable success in rehabilitating offenders.

On 5th October, Professor Sir Tim Brighouse latterly Commissioner for London Schools will give a talk entitled, ‘Schools Ain’t What They Used to Be’.

Wallingford U3A’s Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. Tea is served after the lecture. For more information phone 01491 825156.
As we are right on your doorstep, why not come and join us this year?

For more information & contact details:
www.bensontennisclub.co.uk

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Wallingford Bridge Club

Wallingford Bridge courses will start for the year 2011-12 on Tuesday 4th October. We are offering the following courses:

**Beginning Bridge: Tutor Francis Glassborow**
This course is for those who have never played Bridge before or have not played for several years. Sometimes people who have not played recently find this course a useful way to get started again. The course consists of 3 ten week terms (each term has a mid-term break) and on completion you will be able to enjoy playing Bridge both with your friends and at any club that offers opportunities for non-expert players (Wallingford Bridge Club has a range of playing sessions that cover all levels of expertise).

**Continuing Bridge: Tutor Gillian Weatherley**
This is a practical course aimed at those who have completed a ‘Beginning Bridge’ course or who have played some bridge and have an equivalent basic knowledge. Over the 3 ten week terms you will be able to consolidate what you know, improve your skills and extend the principles covered in the Beginner’s course.
Each of the above courses is duplicated so that you can choose either to attend in the morning (10.30 – 12.30) or the evening (7.30 – 9.30). In general we are happy to accommodate people who sometimes attend the morning session and sometimes the evening one.
The lessons take place at Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall. If you would like more information, or want to book a place contact: Be email (preferred for initial contact): WallingfordBridgeCourses@yahoo.co.uk
By Telephone: Gillian Weatherley (Continuing Bridge) on 07521 629304
Francis Glassborow (Beginning Bridge) on 01865 717797
You may also find useful information on Wallingford Bridge Club’s website: http://www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford/

Wallingford Hockey Club

Wallingford Hockey Club are a competitive and friendly hockey club with 6 mens, 3 ladies and mixed teams as well as a successful youth section (the Wildcats) and an active social scene. We train and play at the Wallingford Sports Park on a recently relaid pitch with parking, changing rooms and clubhouse (with real ale) all on the same site.

Pre-season fitness training has started at the club on Thursday evenings 7-8pm whilst pitch training commenced in mid August and our annual club day will be on September 4th. We are looking for new members of all standards to join the fun and help build on the achievement of last season. All training sessions throughout the club are delivered by qualified coaches. Wallingford Hockey Club tours regularly and is renowned for its friendliness and active social scene. If you are interested and would like further information please take a look at our website www.wallingfordhc.org.uk or email us on wallingfordhc@gmail.com
Tim Chamberlain

Wallingford Photographic Club

The summer break is flying by and it will soon be time to spend the evenings on your indoor activities and hobbies, rejoining or joining a club with your interest at heart. If using a camera is your ‘thing’ why not put the date in your diary now.

Thursday September 22nd Welcome Evening when we look forward to meeting up with present members and to welcoming visitors and new members.
Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings at the Crowmarsh Pavilion, (behind the building site near the bridge) The Street, Crowmarsh, at 7.45 for 8p.m. - 10p.m. from September to the end of May; we are always pleased to see visitors, from beginners to advanced photographers. For further details telephone 01491 835632 or see our website http://www.wallingford-photographic-club.org.uk

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Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Jill Parrick

Ridgeway U3A

The next monthly meeting is on 20th Sept, 2:30 pm, Sports Pavilion, Watlington Recreation Ground. Charmaine Grace Woodham will be the speaking about food production in East Anglia - "Awash with Veg". Retired and semi-retired visitors welcome, £2.50. For more details on how to join, contact Jacky Wagstaff email: jackywag@yahoo.com or 01491 613175.

Benson WI

The armchair aerobics at our July meeting was well attended and great fun.
The raffle was won by Janet Smith.
Instead of the usual meeting in August, 24 members enjoyed a lunchtime meal at The Crown, Benson. Service and food was excellent
Our next meeting will be held on September 21st at 7.30pm when our talk will be “Photo Trail of Unusual Oxford”
Visitors are always welcome – details available from Mary Doney on 01491 838748.

Red Cross Appeal

Chris Wheatcroft, writes...

‘Small Change makes a big difference’

The British Red Cross are actively seeking volunteers to place and manage collection boxes in the area. A collection box will collect around £10 per month in your local shop. It doesn’t take long to empty your tin and bank the money, but it all adds up. Help us to be there for people in Oxfordshire.
The Red Cross is often best known for the work we do abroad but we are also actively involved in the local community here in Oxfordshire. This type of fundraising is extremely valuable to the Red Cross. If you would like to be involved please contact Chris Wheatcroft (Community Fundraiser – Oxfordshire) Tel: 01235 552680 or email: CWheatcroft@redcross.org.uk

Earth Trust Events in September

Jane Carpenter, writes...

Unless stated otherwise, all events take place at Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ, and booking is essential: 01865–407792 or email: admin@earthtrust.org.uk
Website: www.earthtrust.org.uk.
Saturday 3 Moth Night 7.30pm – 10.30pm. A wonderful opportunity to see how beautiful British moths can be! Learn the basics of identification. Adults £5, Children £2
Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 Build a Puddled Clay Pond 9.30am – 4.00pm. Learn the traditional art of constructing and lining a wildlife pond using puddled clay. Do away with plastic pond liners! Adults £75, Friends £60
Wednesday 14 The Incredible World of the Honey Bee 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Discover what makes the honey bee so special in this illustrated talk with an expert from Brightwell Bees. Adults £5, Children £2
Sunday 18 Wilderness Cookery 10.00am – 4.00 pm. Reconnect with how we used to live – Spend a relaxing day around a fire learning how to prepare and cook a variety of foods with the minimum of utensils and pots. Adults £75, Friends £60
Sunday 18 A Walk on the Wild Side 11.00am (Registration from 10.00am) Join Age UK and Earth Trust for this new sponsored walk, choice of 5K or 8K walk. Entry fee Adults £5 in advance, £7 on the day. Download entry form from www.ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or www.earthtrust.org.uk or call Age UK on 01235 849400 or email walkonthewildside@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk
Saturday 24 Introduction to Landscape Photography 10.00am – 5.00pm. Join professional landscape photographer David Hall for an enjoyable day to improve your landscape photography. Please bring your own camera and tripod if you have one. Adults £50, Friends £40
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About Benson Bulletin
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BB’s Deadlines
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