Editor’s Column
Anne Fowler writes...

So far, so good. The weather has not been too bitter, so hopefully we won’t see another arctic style winter, although Benson is often the coldest recorded place in the country – is that because there happens to be a weather station here – or is it because it really is a frost pocket?

Anyway, this year we have the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which I understand Benson Parish Council intend to mark with a ‘bit of a do’ (the full details are unknown to me as yet, but I am sure we will be given this information in due course). As part of this, BPC would like to contact local clubs/societies/groups so that they have the opportunity to take part. The Benson Bulletin and Benson Library maintain a list of contact details for local groups, so please could you make sure your club contact details are up to date by popping into the Library, or calling them on 01491 838474, or of course you can contact the BB.

I have heard from the fusion research facility at Culham, that their scientists and engineers will be demonstrating fun hands-on experiments at the Oxfordshire Science Festival in March. They will be at the ‘Science in Your World’ launch event at Bonn Square in Oxford on Saturday 3 March. This and many more science events are listed on the website www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk - interesting stuff for children and adults alike.

So far, so good. The weather has not been too bitter, so hopefully we won’t see another arctic style winter, although Benson is often the coldest recorded place in the country – is that because there happens to be a weather station here – or is it because it really is a frost pocket?

Anyway, this year we have the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which I understand Benson Parish Council intend to mark with a ‘bit of a do’ (the full details are unknown to me as yet, but I am sure we will be given this information in due course). As part of this, BPC would like to contact local clubs/societies/groups so that they have the opportunity to take part. The Benson Bulletin and Benson Library maintain a list of contact details for local groups, so please could you make sure your club contact details are up to date by popping into the Library, or calling them on 01491 838474, or of course you can contact the BB.

I have heard from the fusion research facility at Culham, that their scientists and engineers will be demonstrating fun hands-on experiments at the Oxfordshire Science Festival in March. They will be at the ‘Science in Your World’ launch event at Bonn Square in Oxford on Saturday 3 March. This and many more science events are listed on the website www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk - interesting stuff for children and adults alike.

Editor’s Column
Anne Fowler writes...

So far, so good. The weather has not been too bitter, so hopefully we won’t see another arctic style winter, although Benson is often the coldest recorded place in the country – is that because there happens to be a weather station here – or is it because it really is a frost pocket?

Anyway, this year we have the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which I understand Benson Parish Council intend to mark with a ‘bit of a do’ (the full details are unknown to me as yet, but I am sure we will be given this information in due course). As part of this, BPC would like to contact local clubs/societies/groups so that they have the opportunity to take part. The Benson Bulletin and Benson Library maintain a list of contact details for local groups, so please could you make sure your club contact details are up to date by popping into the Library, or calling them on 01491 838474, or of course you can contact the BB.

I have heard from the fusion research facility at Culham, that their scientists and engineers will be demonstrating fun hands-on experiments at the Oxfordshire Science Festival in March. They will be at the ‘Science in Your World’ launch event at Bonn Square in Oxford on Saturday 3 March. This and many more science events are listed on the website www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk - interesting stuff for children and adults alike.
Dear Editor,
First to introduce myself, I’m the Revd David Cleugh and I’m currently looking after the churches in Warborough, Newington and Stadhampton. I’ve got a query (detailed below) relating to the churchyard at Warborough. I’m given to understand that there are some of the Bumpass family living in Benson and thought it might be worth putting out an appeal. I have had a request to put up a headstone for Mabel Jane Martha Bumpass who was buried in 1954 in the Churchyard in Warborough. Unfortunately we don’t have any records as to where she was buried. On consulting the burial register I have managed to find the burial plots of two others who were buried around the same time and think that is likely that Mrs Bumpass was buried between them. I have placed a sign on the site of this grave, which is in the “new” section of the graveyard. If anybody has any information, or suggestions about people who may know about burials in this area I’d be pleased to hear from you.

David Cleugh
Curate in Charge of the Parishes of Stadhampton with Chiselhampton, Newington and Warborough. Tel: 01865 341382.

Dear Editor,
Grateful if you would pass a message to Mrs Rebecca Morgan ref renting parking spaces in the library car park. I think this is a great idea and I would be very interested. Please could you/she let me know if it goes any further.
Many thanks,
Alison Ringrose

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 and it could lead to a Full House - Bingo!

In Memorium

GLENYS MARY SMITH
(nee Platt)
8/10/1939 - 11/12/2011

Along with my two stepdaughters, Jane and Julie, I wish to thank all those that have given us support and sympathy at this sad time. After a short illness, Glenys came home from the John Radcliffe Hospital on Friday the 9th of November. She passed away peacefully, with her family present, on Sunday the 11th December.
The service of remembrance took place on Tuesday 20th December at St Helen’s church followed by the Committal in the Churchyard. She will be remembered by many in our community as a florist. In 1981, together with Dave Scrivens, she opened the Greengrocery/Florist which is still going strong today.
After suffering a severe stroke, Glenys spent the last fourteen years of her life confined to a wheelchair, losing her power of speech and the use of her right side. Throughout her life Glenys was a cheerful, vivacious, hard working person. She had many friends in Benson and throughout the world.
My thanks go out to the many people who gave care and support to Glenys during those years:
- Professor Wade and his team at Rivermead Rehab. Clinic
- Dr Rose and his team of doctors, nurses and staff at the Millstream centre
- The Oxfordshire Home Support Team
- Friends Relatives and Neighbours

SHE WILL BE MISSED

David Smith

Isabel and Linda Taylor and family would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters, flowers and offers of help they received after the sad loss of John, also the donations so generously given. Thank you.
Isabel Taylor
**JEM**
CHIMNEY SWEEPING
COMPANY
NO FUSS-NO MESS-NO PROBLEM
Oxford 01865 772996
Stadhampton 01865 400244
Deddington 01869 337500
Mobile 07711 443050

**“The Complete Building Service”**
- Planning Drawings & Applications
- Building Control Approvals
- Design & Build Contracts
- Project Management
- Building Contracts
- New Builds
- Conversions
- Extensons

T 01491 825891 M 07877598431
E enquiries@thamesconstruction.co.uk
www.thamesconstruction.co.uk

**Chris Jones**
General Building Work
Brickwork, Patios and Fencing
Interior & Exterior Decorating

Call
Daytime: 07766 881004
Evening: 01235 819441

**Fyfield Manor**
Bed and Breakfast
* 3 large period rooms *
Double occupancy from £70-£85 per night including full breakfast
Single occupancy from £50-£65 per night including full breakfast
Self-catering apartment - Price on request
Tel 01491 – 835184 Fax 01491 – 825635
Email chris_fyfield@hotmail.co.uk
www.fyfieldmanor.co.uk

**S G Locksmith Services**
your friendly local locksmith

Lock Opening, Replacement or Repair
Key Cutting
Emergency Entry
Door Maintenance

Phone: Steve on 07788 595451

**LB Plumbing**

- toilets, taps, showers
- immersions, leaks
and more

fully insured • free estimates
for fast friendly reliable service
tel 07981 642688/01491 834484
7 days a week

**Groundworks**

- Mini Digger / Skip Loader With Operator

Footings, Oversites, Drainage,
Driveways, Patios, Site Clearance Etc.

Tel: 01491 612272
Mob: 07853 612505

“No job too big or too small”

**STEVE WILKINSON**
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Painting, Plastering, Stonework,
Fencing, Patios, Repointing,
Carpentry, Garden Tidying Etc.

Telephone: 01865 891554
Mobile: 07885 538514
Constituency Report

John Howell MP, writes ...

Firstly may I wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous 2012. I also want especially to thank all those who work hard in our communities and for the many charities and voluntary organisations which make our area a good place to live and work. It was a great pleasure to meet so many of you in 2011 and to share a little in the work you do. I hope to meet many more of you in the coming year.

Parliament in November & December 2011

In November the Localism Bill received Royal Assent and became the Localism Act. As this year progresses measures enshrined in this Act will be introduced and which will see some key changes to the powers given to local communities. Transition arrangements have yet to be announced and I will ensure that information gets to those who need it as it becomes available. During the year we will see two of the first Neighbourhood Plans to be permitted by the Localism Act completed in this constituency as one of our villages (Woodcote) and one of our towns (Thame) were awarded the opportunity to pilot the process as ‘frontrunners’. These plans will for the first time be a legal part of the planning system and will allow local communities to help shape the places where they live.

As the year drew to a close there were a number of important Ministerial Statements made in the House which set out important areas of Government policy.

Annual Energy Statement

The coalition agreement stated that the Government would give an Annual Energy Statement to Parliament which would set out strategic energy policy and guide investment. On 23rd November the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change made the 2011 Statement. This was the second Annual Statement and the Energy Secretary also announced a consultation on secondary legislation to provide for the Government’s green deal which will begin next autumn.

Uprating of benefits and pensions

On 8th December the Minister of State for Work and Pensions, Steve Webb, made a statement to the House of Commons on the uprating of benefits and pensions for 2011-12. This offers some protection for the vulnerable including the elderly, those who are disabled, have caring responsibilities or are unable to work through no fault of their own.

A personal reflection on the year ahead

If we look to the year ahead the Government has made it clear that restoring the economy will be its priority. Keeping international confidence will keep interests rates low to keep mortgage costs and the cost of business loans down.

With so many major world issues unresolved, there can be little doubt that 2012 will, in many ways, see many of the same issues as we faced in 2011 continue to be in the news. At the centre of this will undoubtedly be the continuing crisis in the Eurozone.

Hopefully too we shall have some special opportunities to enjoy ourselves with the Olympics and the Queens Jubilee. Whether you are sporting inclined or not, the Olympics this year will be a major focus of attention and there will be many opportunities offered through tourism. The Queens Jubilee too, as a key national celebration, will bring a chance to celebrate together the life and work of a monarch who has given so much to this country.

During this year I will continue to give a regular and factual report of the key activities in Parliament including legislation. In these I do not offer party political reflections but simply seek to explain the stated purpose or aim of the Government or others who propose legislation such as individual MPs. Constituents of all political persuasions may agree or disagree on whether those stated aims will be achieved or whether they are desirable. I welcome letters and emails from constituents on these and other parliamentary matters.

Also in 2012 I plan to undertake some additional ‘Village Tours’. Last September I visited 80 of the smaller villages and hamlets in the constituency in 8 days. In the coming months I hope to visit some of those I was unable to visit then and if possible to return to others. Details will be published through local magazines and websites.

My website is regularly updated and offers more information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. If you would like to read more about my work please visit: www.johnhowellmp.com
CALL PLUMBING HEATING
TAPWASHERS & PLUMBING
Repairs • Installations
BOILERS, COOKERS, GASFIRES
Serviced • Repaired • Replaced
CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS
Installations • Cleansing • Servicing
FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
UNDERFLOOR HEATING
EMERGENCY REPAIRS
Best Prices, service and Reliability

LEE BECKETT
01491 614233 or
07773 168120

www.walkinshowerbaths.co.uk

D J MATTHEWS
CHALGROVE GARAGE
SERVICING ALL MAKES and MODELS
ALL MECHANICAL REPAIRS
Clutches, Shockers, Exhausts, Batteries
Engine Management Diagnostics etc.
M.O.T’s
Lease and Company Cars Maintained
FREE Courtesy Cars
FREE Collection and Delivery Service
AA & RAC Approved Garage
24hr BREAKDOWN RECOVERY SERVICE
01865 890213
www.djmchalgrovegarage.com

Proud Joint Sponsors of Benson A.F.C.
I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and 2012 is a good year for everyone.

**Vandalism**

Unfortunately there have been further occurrences of vandalism around the village over the last few weeks, some of which have not been reported to the Police. If you witness or are aware of Anti-Social Behaviour / vandalism please report it to Thames Valley Police using the new non-emergency number 101. The current non-emergency number 0845 850 5505 is being phased out in March.

**Precept**

The precept (the Parish Council element of the Council Tax bill) has been retained at the same level as last year. However, since the tax base for the Parish has increased slightly this means that a Band D household parish council tax will fall from £69.14 to £68.57.

**Bulk Oil Buying Scheme**

ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) operate a bulk oil buying scheme where they will buy heating oil in bulk and then distribute to local residents across Oxfordshire. This means they are able to pass on significant discounts compared to residents buying oil direct from a supplier. For details see www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme

---

**Air Ambulance**

Your local Air Ambulance needs new volunteers to help us with our busy events calendar. If you like meeting new people, trying new things and joining a fantastic social network – why not volunteer a few hours per week for the Air Ambulance? We do not receive any Central Government or National Lottery funding so without volunteers we would not be able to continue saving lives in your community, 365 days of the year. TVACAA needs YOUR help to ensure the Air Ambulance can continue to provide a life saving emergency service in Oxfordshire. Can you help us make a difference?

**Eleanor Green** Oxfordshire Fundraising Manager eleanor@tvacaa.org or 0300 999 0135

---

**Lost Necklace**

Silver and amber necklace lost on Boxing Day somewhere between Church Close, Benson and the riverbank up to Shillingford Bridge. If found, please contact 07974 843696 or email the Benson Bulletin bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you! **Pippa Faucheux**

---

**BCA Website**

Rob Anderson-Besant, writes ...

The Benson Community Association has been working to prepare and launch a new website. This has now gone live and can be found at www.bensoncommunity.com. There is plenty of work to be done to bring the site completely up-to-date. This will develop as we move into 2012. We are open to suggestions as to what could be included in the website. Why not let us know what you think – contact details are on the website. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. We really do appreciate it.

---

**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
Sassy Paws
Dog Grooming
Treat your dog to a special time at
Sassy’s Grooming Parlour
Rates are very reasonable whether it be for a full groom or just a wash and brush-up we cater for all your grooming needs
Contact Liz Perry on
01491 838267 or 07795 095917
Flint House
12 Churchfield Lane
Benson

ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE RESTORATION
Traditional French Polishing
Spray Finishing/Colour Matching
Staircases/Doors/Kitchen Worktops
Custom Made Wardrobes
Bookcases and any other units made to fit
Any carpentry work undertaken
Ring James (Chalgrove)
Tel: 01865 890436
Mob: 07796 966123

WALLIS FENCING AND GATES
All types of fencing and gates supplied and installed
• Residential
• Agricultural
• Industrial
• Security
Please Contact Alan Wallis for a free quotation
www.wallisfencing.co.uk
01491 834 886
07747 700740
4 Ewelme Down Farm, Ewelme, OX10 6PQ

Larkmead Veterinary Group
Caring for Pets, Horses & Farm Animals in South Oxfordshire
High quality clinical care and customer service from a caring team.
RCVS accredited practice with full operating facilities at Cholsey & Didcot.
Consulting practices at Benson and Sutton Courtenay, with regular ‘cat only’ clinics.
24/7 emergency service from our own vets.
01491 651379: Cholsey & Benson Pets
01491 651479: Horses & Farm Animals
01235 814991: Didcot & Sutton Courtenay Pets
www.larkmead.co.uk
Friends of Benson Library  
*Dave Rushton, writes ...*

**Benson Library - The Way Forward**

A well attended public meeting on a bitterly cold winter’s evening in January backed the plan for the future of Benson Library put forward by the Trustees of FOBL. The Trustees reported:

- that the County’s planned provision of 50% paid staff is not enough to keep the library open without finding an excessive number of volunteers.
- that to be realistic, the library needs one paid staff person present at all times during opening hours. 50% staff does not do this.
- that FOBL will co-operate with OCC in reviewing opening hours to see if they meet the needs of the community.
- that the way forward is to fund additional hours of paid staff as necessary and then support these with some volunteers.

The Trustees of FOBL will now seek to negotiate with OCC on funding the additional hours of paid staff necessary, whilst examining ways of fundraising to finance this.

Your library is not safe yet but we have a way forward. We are now at the point where we need some specific help. We need:
- secretarial help for a couple of hours once a month to take notes
- advice on fundraising
- advice from someone with library experience.
- helpers in Ewelme/Warborough who could distribute a few newsletters once a month or so.

FOBL welcomes all suggestions on the library’s future, so please get in touch if you can help or if you have a good suggestion. My personal thanks to all those who distributed the leaflets and did an excellent job of getting the word out.

www.bensonbulletin.com

---

**Rhymetimes at Benson Library  
Hilary Rust, writes ...**

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 two sessions are on:

- Friday 17th February 2012 10-10.30am
- Friday 16th March 2012 10-10.30am

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you!

Hilary, Pat and Alison.

---

**Benson Library Opening Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2-6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9-12.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Closed all day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9-12.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9.30-12.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Benson Outreach Post Office  
Benson Parish Hall Pavilion  
Opening Hours:**

- **Tuesday** 9.30 - 12.30 & 13.00 - 16.00
- **Wednesday** 9.30 - 12.30
- **Thursday** 9.30 - 12.30

---

**REGISTERED HOMEOPATH**

**Can Homeopathy help You?**

Evening and Saturday appointments available

**Margaret Brock RSHom**

For more information 01491 838246
Neil Aldridge Landscapes

Specialists in: fencing, patios, decking, turfing, hedgecutting, and all aspects of landscaping

FULLY INSURED & GUARANTEED

CONTACT NEIL ON 01491 684212
EMAIL: Neil@neilaldridge.com
www.neilaldridge.com

As Safe As Houses
24 HR Locksmiths

- Emergency Access
- Locks Repaired & Replaced
- UPVC Window & Door Specialists

Fully Insured & CRB Checked
Call Nick on 07898 737884

Chiltern Domestic Appliances
Est 1985

Tel: 01491 681526

Servicing, Repairs and Sales

Washing Machines, Tumble Dryers, Dishwashers, Electric Hobs and Ovens

Bosch Hotpoint Zanussi Hoover Indesit Miele
Whirlpool Siemens Neff Creda Candy

and many more...
Looking Back on Old Benson
Peter Clarke, writes ...

We have a lot of fun in the History Group sometimes. When, back in 1994 I first edited BB, I used to do a routine article “Looking back on old Benson”. Here’s another one. Recently a gentleman passed by and gave us this photo:

It is of his grandfather chatting to an AA chap in uniform. The year we know to be 1920, but where was it taken? Can anyone guess?
Well, it took Dave Olley, our retired Postmaster, who has lived and worked within 30 meters of the spot for many years to tell us where the photographer was standing. He was just by the Crown mounting block, and if you don’t know what that is, take a look. Crown Lane is behind the group.

They used to put the AA chap there to direct traffic on that corner, because in those days Crown Square was what Castle Square is today. With no Benson by-pass, traffic came roaring down from the Chilterns, straight across what is now RAF Benson and in to Old London Road, on their way through the village, and on to Oxford, Gloucester and the West Country.
No one looks as busy as our Crossing Lady is today. Time for all to have a fag and chat in the middle of the road! Well, it was over 90 years ago!
FAMILY FLORIST & GREENGROCER
Tel: 01491 837739
WE DELIVER
QUALITY
FLOWERS
FRESH FRUIT &
VEGETABLES

Beautiful flowers for all occasions
• Wedding bouquets & Tailor-made packages
• Funeral tributes
• Bouquets for all occasions - traditional and contemporary designs
• Helium Balloons
Order online:
For fruit and vegetables:
www.chilternfreshdirect.co.uk
For flowers:
www.chilternflorist.co.uk
25 High Street, Benson
OX10 6RP

DIVERSE TRAVEL
• Airport transfers
• Accounts & contracts welcome
• Schools & local runs
• Wheelchair accessible
• Private minibus hire
• 7-8 Seater executive vehicles
• Fast friendly reliable service
• All travel tailored to your requirements
• Distance no object
• Fully plated & licensable vehicles
Please contact: Rachael Huggins
t: 01491 839959 m: 07786 886 413
e: diversetravel@ymail.com

ARBOCARE
Professional Tree Care
Landscaping and Ground Maintenance
√ Felling Reductions & Pruning
√ Dangerous Trees Dismantled
√ Stump Grinding & Root Removal
√ 40ft Hydraulic Platforms
√ Hedge Trimming   √ Tree Planting
√ Woodchip & Mulch Supplied

CALL
FREE  0808 155 5815
OFFICE  01235 813 619
24HR MOBILE  07778 811 136
www.arbocare.co.uk   NATIONAL TRUST APPROVED
20 Years in Benson

Janet Burtt, writes ...

I really can’t quite believe it, yet, on January 9th 1992 my husband and I took up residence in Chiltern Close. It was one of the best decisions we had taken.

Almost immediately our neighbours welcomed us and, within a week, I was taken to the Benson Art Group, The Evergreens, and Benson Short Mat Bowls Club. Later in the month we joined The Bensington Society, and I tried the W.I. for a while. Later still I started volunteering at the Help Line, and Day Centre, and joined the Library. We discovered there was a Doctors’ surgery, a Dental Practice, hairdressers and all the High Street shops, with a video shop in Chapel Lane, and even our cat was provided for in the Vet’s surgery almost next door there.

What a community!

My husband, Bill, was confined to a wheelchair, but was nonetheless able to join in with far more social activities than he had in London. We felt no prejudice from long term residents towards these newcomers, and indeed I count some of them as my good friends today.

The village has grown somewhat since my early days, with many new housing developments – Forge Close, Passey Crescent, The Meer, Millar Close, etc. Of course we have lost things, too. The Infant School, pubs such as The Sun, and The Farmers Man, and Rivers Night Club. Among lost shops are – the wonderful Home Decorating Store (still mourned by many), the Baker’s, Holly’s clothes and haberdasher’s, the Travel Agent, the afore-mentioned video shop, a hairdresser or two, the paper shop and the Post office. We have gained a chemist’s shop, Revival, and Derry’s Den which replaced an old fashioned sweet shop.

Through attending a local History course run by Kate Tiller I met many people who were as interested as I was about the subject and following collaboration with some of them and through a close working relationship with, notably, Peter Clarke, and Tom and Pat Stevenson, I now count them as good friends.

We have, under the auspices of the Bensington Society, published three histories of Benson, and re-published The War Memorial and Graves Book of Remembrance, which Alistair Jack and my husband produced for the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII in 1995.

Many older villagers helped us with the second, red, history and of those several have now died – George Gurney, Ida Harkness, Marie Warwick, Ivy Barney, and Fred Smith. Other villagers who also died since I got to know them were –Ron Collett, Ron Jones, Jack Taylor, Bob Mills, Dorothy Aldridge, June Oliver all through the Indoor Short mat Bowls Club. I was also pleased to get to know Enid Brighting and Norah Toms.

I am a Quaker so don’t regularly attend St Helens Church, but have taken part in ecumenical occasions and have met many from the church in other ways.

The vicar in residence when I arrived was Rev. Barton. When he left there was an interregnum when Father Markham and Rev Austin Thorburn filled in until Rev Andrew Hawken arrived. Jean Travis left the Surgery and took holy orders, and is, I’m sure, a continuing support to our new incumbent, Rev John Burrell.

Of the inhabitants of Chiltern Close in 1992 only Marjorie (Peggy) Jones and I survive.

THE SKIN GINIE

OICB, IDI

Insanely great face and body treatments including:

Luxurious Dermalogica prescriptive facials
CACI non-surgical face-lift
Eyelash/Eyebrow tinting
Massage
Manicure / Pedicure
Waxing

My treatment room offers a professional and friendly approach in a peaceful and calming environment using ‘results driven’ products

Gift Vouchers & Pamper Evenings available

Authorised Dermalogica Skin Care Stockist
59 St Helens Avenue, Benson, Oxon
01491 838550 / 07720 290495
MARTIN WIGGALL
Domestic Appliance Repair
For a prompt and efficient repair to your
WASHING MACHINE
DISHWASHER
TUMBLE DRYER
COOKER
Tel: 01865 349007
No call out fee
COMPETITIVE RATES

MARTIN WIGGALL
Domestic Appliance Repair
For a prompt and efficient repair to your
WASHING MACHINE
DISHWASHER
TUMBLE DRYER
COOKER
Tel: 01865 349007
No call out fee
COMPETITIVE RATES

ADVANCED PEST
CONTROL SERVICE
OF EWELME
ESTABLISHED 1970
HOUSEHOLD
GARDEN & FARM
PESTS
MOLES, MICE, RATS, RABBITS,
WASPS AND ALL OTHER INSECTS
DEAL WITH
PROMPTLY
CALL LEE CARRINGTON OR
PETER WILLIS
TEL: 01491 835610
MOBILE: 07970 010214

NEW for Derry’s Den...
♦ Greater range of stationery
♦ More household bits & bobs
And we still the great selection of...
♦ Cards, gifts & wrap
♦ Party items & bunting
Derry’s Den tel: 824152

Registered Osteopath
Rohan D Iswariah, D.O.
01491-838866
Ivy Cottage, Chapel Lane
Benson OX10 6LU
accepted by all major insurance companies

THE HARDWARE STORE
WITH MUCH MUCH MORE!
• NEW LUGGAGE DEPT
• Gardening
• Pest Control
• Heating
• Electrical Appliances
• Kitchenware
• DIY
• Pet Supplies
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
Open Monday to Saturday
9AM TO 5PM
7 St Mary’s Street
Wallingford
Oxfordshire
OX10 0EL
Tel 01491 836271
Fax 01491 824250
champions@pettitsofwallingford.co.uk

StageWorks Ltd
Performing Arts School
YOUTH HALL, OXFORD ROAD, BENSON
Dance, drama and singing classes
for children aged 4 - 12
Free Trials available
www.stageworks.co.uk
Tel: 01628 898038 Mob: 07956 176166
The River Thames is an iconic destination for boating enthusiasts all through the year. As the navigation authority for the Thames, the Environment Agency is looking for volunteers to assist with the operation and maintenance of locks from Cricklade in Wiltshire to Teddington in Middlesex, through the busy summer months.

Joining our team of Lock Keepers as a volunteer assistant, you will gain the valuable experiences that only the Environment Agency can offer. You will spend your days outdoors, helping boats through the lock, giving advice to visitors, looking after the lock-side facilities and generally acting as an ambassador for the River Thames and the Environment Agency. We will provide on-the-job training and Environment Agency branded clothing to make sure that you can play your part with confidence. We’ll also provide the best opportunities for you to increase your knowledge of the River Thames whilst building on your skills, knowledge and passion for the environment.

All positions are offered on a voluntary basis, starting April 2012 and finishing October 2012. We are looking for people who can spare at least one day a week throughout the season. Please be aware some weekend and bank holiday work may be required.

For an information pack and application form please email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk call 01491 828360, or speak to your local Lock Keeper.

Interested in making your home one of the most environmentally friendly in your area? This is your chance to talk to someone who has already done it!

Pioneering owners of some of the UK’s most energy efficient SuperHomes will be hosting free open days between Saturday 17th March and Sunday 25th March 2012.

SuperHomes are older homes that have been refurbished to the highest standards of energy efficiency – resulting in greater comfort, significantly lower running costs and a reduction in carbon emissions of at least 60%.

SuperHomes showcase a range of home improvements likely to become popular following the launch of the Green Deal in October 2012. The majority of SuperHomes are super-insulated so visitors with draughty old solid wall properties will discover some clever ways to make their home more comfortable in winter. In many cases renewable energy heats water, provides electricity or contributes to space heating.

Attending an open day provides the opportunity to speak to a homeowner who has already done the thinking and undertaken some major improvements. Who could be better qualified to help you make the right choices?

The SuperHomes website makes it easy to find properties with features you may have on your wish list. SuperHomes open to the public in March, September and at other times by appointment. For more information, or to book to attend an open day, visit the website: www.superhomes.org.uk
Shaun Guard
TV AERIAL SERVICES
- Poor Reception Solved - Aerials repaired & supplied
- TVs - Hung on your wall for you. Also supplied & tuned
- Extra TV Points - For aerial and Sky (in HD)
- Sky TV - Also Foreign Language TV

Call Wallingford 01491 833282
A part of OXFORD AERIALS

Valentine Special
Back by popular demand
Treat your loved one to a pamper package

Ladies Relaxation
Swedish back, neck and shoulder massage
Monu Express Facial
File and paint finger or toe nails
£50.00

Mens Relaxation
Swedish back, neck and shoulder massage
Wet Cut
£30.00

Gift Vouchers Available
Welcome back Sarah, from maternity leave
Appointments now available

5 Chapel Lane, Benson, Oxon
01491 838931
www.chapellanehairandbeauty.co.uk

DAVE SHARP - GENERAL BUILDER
- BRICKWORK • PATIOS
- DECORATING • REPOINTING
- POWER WASHING
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT
REFERENCES AVAILABLE

TEL: 01491 836796 OR 07770 484277

Bonhams

Henley
Valuation Week

February
23 Clocks & Watches
27 Furniture & Toys
28 Books
29 Ceramics & Glass

March
1 Paintings
2 Silver & Jewellery

Please book an appointment for a complimentary auction valuation with our visiting specialist.

01491 413 636
henley@bonhams.com

Dave Sharp
General Builder

D Dave Sharp - General Builder
- Brickwork • Patios
- Decorating • Pointing
- Power Washing
Over 30 years experience
Reliable and efficient
References available

Tel: 01491 836796 or 07770 484277

Chapel Lane Hair & Beauty

Valentine Special
Back by popular demand
Treat your loved one to a pamper package

Ladies Relaxation
Swedish back, neck and shoulder massage
Monu Express Facial
File and paint finger or toe nails
£50.00

Mens Relaxation
Swedish back, neck and shoulder massage
Wet Cut
£30.00

Gift Vouchers Available
Welcome back Sarah, from maternity leave
Appointments now available

5 Chapel Lane, Benson, Oxon
01491 838931
www.chapellanehairandbeauty.co.uk

Bonhams

Henley
Valuation Week

February
23 Clocks & Watches
27 Furniture & Toys
28 Books
29 Ceramics & Glass

March
1 Paintings
2 Silver & Jewellery

Please book an appointment for a complimentary auction valuation with our visiting specialist.

01491 413 636
henley@bonhams.com

![Bonhams Ad](image-url)
2012 and back to gardening basics. It is now early February and according to the ancient calendar Spring starts on 4th, so it is seed sowing time. But what to sow? There are three main types of seed the average gardener is likely to sow, so where, when and how?

It is too still early for the average annuals such as marigolds, petunias and asters, but by the end of the month, if you want early blooms, then you need to start planting. The only problem is that you will need to keep the pots and the emerging seedlings in a frost free place and that means until the end of May. Evict, by all means, early May, but you will need to cover if a frost threatens. If you sow too early then the seedlings might well go ‘leggy’, so best to wait for another 3 - 4 weeks. This type of seed will be marked on the packets as HHA.

Hardy annuals such as Sweet Peas, Sunflowers and Poppies (Papaver), should really have been sown last October, but if you are not looking for Show Bench specimens, then it is not too late, but they do need to go in NOW, if you want a reasonably long flowering season in 2012. The seed packets will be marked HA.

The last type are the Perennials and Biennials, such as the Cottage Garden favourites, Delphiniums, Hollyhocks, Lupins and Foxgloves. If you want them to flower late spring/early summer, then they should have been sown last September/October, but the problem with that is the winter! They tend to get neglected, not watered, left in a damp greenhouse with all the accompanying problems of death and damping off. Best to sow now and look after them. Most of the perennials will flower this year, but not the Biennials (Foxgloves). Flowers will be smaller and later than they should, but as you will have them for many years to come it matters not. The seed packets for these will be marked HP or HB.

You will need good quality seed sowing medium - John Innes is best. If you use your own be careful. Most of us amateur gardeners cannot get our compost hot enough to kill the seeds we do not want and they will emerge with the seeds you do want, so unless you make your own compost of only kitchen waste or leaves, it is best to buy, just for seed planting. Many is the time I have gone into the greenhouse to find the Undergardener with hundreds of potted on seedlings (beautifully neat), but all weeds! Whatever you do, sow thinly and make sure the compost is damp - not wet.

Usually seeds are sown at a depth equal to their thickness, but Peas and Beans are exceptions, because they need to be sown 2 inches deep. Dust-like seed, such as Antirrhinums, should be sown on the top of the compost and not covered, as they need the light to germinate, but all others should be covered either with compost or, as I prefer, vermiculite. Some seeds with a thick, hard or fleshy covering need to be ‘stratified’. To do this either soak them overnight or chip with a gardening knife. Some seeds will need a period of cold to germinate, Meconopsis and Hellebores to name but two, so it is best to sow those now, cover with compost and chicken wire and leave the pots outside. We still have plenty of chance of cold weather. Most though need reasonable warmth and 64 degrees F (18°C) is really the minimum. A kitchen windowsill is fine for those, if you do not have a greenhouse. Some, though, need much more warmth, Tomatoes and Geraniums being the obvious and the rule of thumb is that if the plant is native to the Mediterranean or tropics, it will need more heat than the native English plant. For these you will probably need a heated propagator or the airing cupboard.

Once the seeds are in, do not forget the labels. Many is the time I have planted several pots of different plants, thinking I will know what they are when they emerge and I don’t have a clue. Then water sparingly and do not use the water from the water-butt, as it could contain fungal spores. You will have lots of spares, so then you can get into seedling swapping - but that’s another story!

Lynn Powell - on behalf of Benson Garden Club
**HeadSpin**

HOME COMPUTER MAINTENANCE
Windows, Macintosh, Internet
maintenance, repair, upgrades, virus removal, audio-visual
no call-out charge, £30/hour, no fix/no fee

e-mail: info@headspin.plus.com
Martin Mayer - tel: (01491) 825282

**Registered OSTEOPATH**

*Jonathan Rohll*

Back, pelvis and neck pain
Sciatica, sports injuries

Chiltern Surgery, Watlington
Monday 1-5pm; Thursday 9am–1pm or by arrangement
07935 341077
www.osteopathy.me.uk

£5 off when you bring this advert

**SHOE REPAIRS**
**ENGRAVING**
**KEY CUTTING**

**FEET FIRST**

21 St. Mary’s Street, Wallingford
Tel: 01491 825224

**WATCHSTRAPS**
**STITCHING**
**TRAVEL GOODS**
**BATTERIES**
**REPAIRS**
**LUGGAGE**

**T.W. Hayden**

Heating Services
Tel: 01865340720
Mobile: 07813904055
E-mail: Twhayden@tiscali.co.uk

All plumbing and heating works undertaken.
Free estimates.

15 Fane Drive, Berinsfield,
Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 7NB

**Dance Connection**

Ballet, Tap, Modern, Jazz, Drama

book your FREE trial at one of the following venues:
Castle Leisure Centre, Wallingford
Hightone Fitness Centre, Wallingford
Woodcote Village Hall

Contact Sam Clifton
01491 683865 / 01790 501831
www.dance-connection.co.uk
enquiries@dance-connection.co.uk

**Brush In Time**

- decorating services
- interior and exterior
- paper hanging
- coving
- home maintenance

phone james (Chalgrove)
01865 890436 / 07796 966123

**Geoff Davis**

**Your Local Window Cleaner**

(established 1987)

**Window Cleaning & Power Washing**

Call now for a free quote!

0790 5729776 or 01491 201324

**Chaucers Picture Framing**

by Sallie Pickering

High quality framing at realistic prices
Huge selection of frames, mounts, creative ideas and inspiration
Conservation Framing

(01491) 652984
info@chaucersframing.co.uk

**GE OF F D AVI S**

YOUR LOCAL WINDOW CLEANER

(established 1987)

Window Cleaning & Power Washing
Call now for a free quote!

0790 5729776 or 01491 201324
The harmony of life and death, that we often romanticise as only being a possibility for those behind a monastery wall, is available to everyone. This observation is likely to be echoed by a monk or nun. Monastery life is very ordinary, the stuff of food preparation, domestic work and the dynamics of being around fellow monastics and often many guests. The drives that take someone into a monastery will often be discovered to have been more about a psychological anxiety than a straightforward vocation. This need not be a problem; in fact it is probably one of the first significant realisations for the new monk or nun. Why people stay within a monastery ends up being a more fruitful question than why they arrived at the door to begin with. The ability to become a person who can stay with something is more important than whether that staying power is discovered within a monastic order or any other community. The longer we stay within something (the more routine the better) the more likely we are to glimpse the true nature of ourselves. Making our life extra-ordinary is unlikely to be the source of liberation we hope for. Bringing into the light how much energy we put into avoiding our many background ‘feelings’ is a valuable step though. Anxiety, fear, anger, separateness, control, boredom, depression, need, defensiveness and altruism may all be part of this ‘feelings’ complex. ‘Spirituality’ or ‘religiosity’ can be as much about running from our anxiety as can be the perpetual media entertainment, retail and cultural activities surrounding our lives. This is subtle stuff though; I can falsely distract myself from the laundry by reading a worthy book and yet soon after I can spend all day doing the laundry because I desperately wish to avoid having to be with myself. What can happen to our lives when we see these mental distractions and our activities arise out of what is really needed? The art of ‘just’ being still is as available to us as it is to a monastic. The basic routines, chores and personal interactions of life are some of our best teachers. Yet, being still is outrageously difficult, astonishingly simple, the art of a lifetime. As Quakers, we embrace many of the insights of our fellow Christian contemplatives. We have a demanding form of worship based upon ‘silent waiting,’ and much guidance on how we can reorder our lives to allow increasing space for the religious nature of reality to become more apparent to us. Accepting daily life and learning to ‘wait’ not only heals my anxiety and makes life gentler but it also opens the doorway into the mysterious reality of God.

Daniel and his partner recently moved to Wallingford. They are the wardens for the Quaker Meeting House in Castle Street. A ‘Meeting for Worship’ is held every Sunday morning at the Quaker Meeting House in Castle Street in Wallingford at 10.30, all are welcome. More details are available from Daniel or Matthew on 01491 837 835 or by visiting www.midthamesquakers.org.uk

Women’s World Day of Prayer

Pandora Huntingford, writes...

St Helen’s Church, Benson
Friday 2nd March at 2pm

This year the service has been prepared by Christian Women of Malaysia on the theme ‘let justice prevail’. The service consists of readings, personal accounts of life in Malaysia, prayers, songs and hymns which in the main should be well-known. The service lasts for about an hour and is followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.

Ewelme Church
Antiques Roadshow

We are holding an Antiques Roadshow on Saturday 24th March in Ewelme Village Hall in aid of Ewelme Church. Doors open 6.30pm, valuations start 7.30pm. Come along and bring a piece for valuation by Simon Jones of Jacobs & Jones Auctioneers. One item only per person for valuation please. Tickets £15 in advance only. This will include a ploughmans style supper. Bar available. Tickets from Ewelme Village Shop, Tracy Fallon 838845 or Deborah Whitfeld 835262.
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
Churchwardens:
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
Gareth Lloyd-Jones (Senior Pastor)

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: pastorsimonwbc@ymail.com
www.wallingford.org.uk

Sunday Services at 10.30am & 7.00pm
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday each month
Another year underway and BEST is looking forward to a full programme of activities, visits and events. The programme for the year is not yet finalised, but we can tell you that the first meeting of 2012 will be on Tuesday 14 February starting at 7.30 pm at the Ewelme Cress Beds Visitor Centre. Marian and Tom are devising a light-hearted (we hope) nature quiz to get everyone thinking ecologically – whatever that means!

Later in the year we are planning visits to the BBOWT nature reserve at Chimney Meadows, besides the Thames near Bampton; to Overy Meadow at Dorchester and, in November, to Nuneham Courtenay arboretum, looking for fungi. BEST members will also be taking part, with others, in a two day “bio-blitz” at Ewelme in July. If you are wondering what that is you will have to wait until nearer the time, but it will give an opportunity for lots of Benson and Ewelme folk to get involved with recording the bio-diversity of our local area. The annual BEST moth trapping and counting event will be in August this year and somewhere (probably on a chilly, damp “summer” evening) we will have the yearly picnic. Surely we are due for a glorious summer evening this year.

Attentive readers may recall me writing previously that this year we would be updating the tree survey last carried out ten years ago. Already we have started to have reports from readers of trees that have been felled since then, so please tell us if you know of large trees in Benson that have gone. Happily, a good number of new trees have been planted in that time – mainly thanks to Tom again – so that in another 10 to 20 years time we can anticipate that there will be more trees than when we did our first survey.

Lots to look forward to and last year’s uncertain climate patterns and changes continue, there is always the prospect of new or unusual species turning up – especially in the butterfly and bird populations. Do tell us about any unusual sightings and, whether you are a BEST regular or an interested newcomer, come to test and improve your knowledge on 14 February.

Incidentally, BEST is bucking the trend of concessions for the over 60s and we are offering half price membership (£4 for the year) to anyone joining who is under 50. There’s an offer you cannot refuse!

Contacts for information: Keith Tibbs (Secretary) Tel: 01491 838689 (e-mail keith.tibbs4@ntlworld.com) or Tom Stevenson (Chairman) Tel: 01491 836888 (e-mail thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com).
Crown Inn Benson
52 High Street, Benson, OX10 6RP
Tel: 01491 838 247

Forthcoming Events

Senior Citizen Lunch Special – Every Tuesday
Soup & Roast Beef Lunch £5.95

6 Nations Rugby on the Big Screen
Sat & Sun 4th of Feb till 17th of Mar - Watch the games with us

Pub Quiz - Wed 1st of Feb 8.30pm

Senior Citizen Lunch Special – Every Tuesday
Soup & Roast Beef Lunch £5.95

Book your Valentines Dinner now!
Sat 11th of Feb & Tue 14th of Feb

Live Music with ‘Nameless’ Classic Rock & Blues
Sat 11th of Feb 9pm

Our International Food evenings continue:

Russian Night - Wed 15th of Feb 7pm

Lunch 12pm – 2pm
Dinner Tue - Thur 6pm – 9pm
Dinner Fri - Sat 6pm – 9.30pm
Sunday Lunch 12pm – 3pm
Restaurant closed Sunday
Evening & All Day Monday

Crown Inn Benson - A meeting place for the whole family

Roy Passey
Interior and Exterior Builders and Decorators

All Building Works
- Renovations
- Extensions
- Small Works Department
- Domestic and Commercial Work

Ashcroft, High Street, Benson
Tel: 01491 838797
Mobile: 07860 890925
Fax: 01491 832959
Email: roypassey@btconnect.com
Well it’s starting to feel a little more like winter now with these beautiful frosty mornings after a couple of months of higher than average temperatures, but still not a speck of snow! The first flowers are starting to emerge much earlier than usual, the winter aconite is appearing by the cemetery wall at Castle Meadows and it won’t be long before we see the first signs of snowdrops around the Victorian Pond.

Back in October we rescued a fox that had become tangled in the wire surrounding Queens Tower. He was probably trying to catch a tasty rabbit on the other side and misjudged his jump. Derek, a volunteer from Tiggywinkles animal hospital, came and collected him and he had to have part of his left rear leg amputated as it was badly damaged. The good news is that he was rehabilitated and released back onto Castle Meadows on 6th January. So if anyone spots a three-and-a-half legged fox on the meadows please let me know, as I’d love to find out how he is doing!

The volunteers have been busy over the last couple of months, repairing the boarding along the path through the pond area, planting some replacement trees in the copse and starting the scrub clearance along the ditch through the centre of the site — this work will be continuing through the rest of the winter too.

Over at Riverside Meadows we have had to replace one of the wooden field gates, which fell apart over the autumn. The site is now secure ready for the cattle to come back on in spring.

We’re usually busy at Mowbray Fields, Didcot, over the winter coppicing willow, but this year is a quiet year for us as there are no more major tree works scheduled until 2013. Minor repairs to the viewing platform and benches have kept us on our toes though.

We held a winter bird walk at Thrupp Lake, near Abingdon, in December for our friends and regular volunteers and nearly 40 species were recorded including green sandpipers, kingfishers and redpoll. Thrupp Lake is a fantastic place to spot overwintering birds and a great place for a winter stroll so pop down and see what you can spot. A poster in the bird hide will help you identify anything you see. If you would like more information about the sites or are interested in getting more involved with one of our volunteer groups or as a warden please contact me, Lorretta Waters, on 01865 409410 or 07982 218493, or email: lorretta.waters@earthtrust.org.uk

Earth’s Trust Events
Maya Herbolzheimer, writes...

Sat 4 & Sun 5 Feb 9.30 am – 4.00 pm: Advanced Hedge Laying. A two-day, hands-on course suitable for anyone who has previously been on a hedge laying course and would like to learn how to tackle a more challenging hedge. Adults £75, Friends £60

Sun 5 Feb 10.00 am – 4.00 pm: Basket Weaving Workshop. Come and weave your own truly unique basket, and take it away with you. Please bring secateurs and a penknife if you have them. Adults £50, Friends £40

Sat 18 Feb 10.00 am – 4.00 pm: Leather Working Workshop. Craft your own leather goods by hand — make a coin purse, belt or pouch. Adults £75, Friends £60

Sun 4 Mar 10.00 am – 4.00 pm: Woodcraft. Use hand tools to learn how to craft spoons and other useful implements around the campfire. Adults £75, Friends £65

Sun 11 Mar 9.30 am – 4.00 pm: Hedge Laying Competition. A competition for those who have been on a hedge laying course to see who can lay the best section of hedge. Enter in teams of two. Free event

Sat 24 & Sun 25 Mar, Sat 31 Mar & Sun 1 Apr 10.00 am – 4.00 pm: Lambing weekends. The Earth Trust and Camilla and Roly present fun-packed days including a visit to the lambing sheds, children’s activities, games and refreshments on sale in the Poem Tree cafe. Family (2 adults, 2 children) £12 per day, adults £5 per day, children £2 per day. No booking required.

Unless stated otherwise, all events take place at Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ, and booking is essential: 01865–407792
Email: admin@earthtrust.org.uk
Website: www.earthtrust.org.uk
BRUCE FERRIMAN
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
8 Church Close, Benson, Oxon OX10 6TA
Tel/Fax: 01491 838567 Mobile: 07971 007 072
DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
New Installations • Extra Lights
Extensions • Low Voltage Lighting
Re-Wire • Security Lights
Extra Sockets • Portable Appliance Testing
Established in the area for over 18 Years

Andrew Page Oak
for everything oak
Oak framed garages and outbuildings to enhance your property. Garden rooms, oak furniture and joinery, all made to your exact requirements.
Oak timber for builders and DIY.

info@andrewpageoak.co.uk 01491 828207
www.andrewpageoak.co.uk

1st CHOICE
OVENCLEAN
Established Professional & Fully Insured local Business
All work is carried out professionally and all products are safe.
We clean all makes of Ovens as well as Hobs and Extractor hoods.
To arrange a Free Quote or to book your ovenclean please call FREE
0800 040 7532

Acorn Nursery
Stadhampton, Oxfordshire
Point of Lay Chickens, Ducks and Quail
Gifts including: Crystal Eggs and Tealight holders.
Winter Opening times: (all other times by phoning first)
Thursday to Saturday 9am to 4pm Sunday 10am to 4pm
Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays
Milton Road, Stadhampton, OX44 7XX; t: 01365 891 563
e: sales@acornplants.co.uk www.acornplants.co.uk

Altom Tree Care Ltd
Tree Felling
Height Reductions
Lopping & Pruning
Stump Grinding
Fencing
Landscaping
Grass/Hedge Cutting
Maintenance Contracts
Seasoned Logs For Sale
Fully Insured
Free Quotations
tel: 01844 339833
mob: 07958 759747
email: altomtree@fsmail.net

OSTEOPATHS
trained to fight PAIN
Goring & Streatley Clinic
The Community Centre
Station Road, Goring
For treatment of
Rheumatism
Arthritis, Sciatica
Backache, Lumbago
Joint Pains, Sports Injuries
Headaches & Stress
Victoria Swan DO
Natalia Beddoo BSc(Hons)Ost
Registered Osteopaths

J Martin Painters & Decorators
We cover all aspects of decorating including:
Internal Painting Wall & Floor Tiling
External Painting Coving & Artexing
Wallpapering
Fully qualified and 14 years experience
Home: 01491 839700 Mobile: 07771 694382
Email: jodiej.martin@tiscali.co.uk

NORMAN WEST & SON
DEVELOPMENTS
(ESTABLISHED 1967)
SMALL WORKS & MAINTENANCE DEPT
ALL TYPES OF WORK UNDERTAKEN
i.e. Decor, Gardens, Fencing, Patios,
Walls, Extensions, Repairs
N.H.B.C. Reg.
NORMAN 01491 838662 LEE 01235 818850
0787 9244851
Pilot Officer Charles Barber  
*Peter Clarke, writes...*

Readers may remember the article I wrote last month about 140 Squadron at RAF Benson. I invited your help in the story that each of those pictured had to tell. Immediately, Mike Prendergast, who runs the Museum up at the Station, got back to me. This is about Charles Barber, back row second from the left in last month’s photo, and is a summary of a long article from a magazine called “After the Battle”.

Charles flew Spitfire X4784. As a photo reconnaissance ‘plane it had been painted a delicate shade of pink, which apparently was thought to be the best camouflage colour for flying at high altitudes against the skylight and cloud background. Normal armaments had been removed to allow the mounting of the specialist cameras.

An air photographer’s role was inevitably to fly at extreme heights. It is thought that, sadly, his oxygen system may have misfunctioned, causing him to lose consciousness and slump forward over the stick. Witnesses near Winchelsea in Sussex reported hearing a Spitfire above, suddenly the engine failing and then picking up, and gathering a fearsome momentum. The ‘plane plunged downwards in to a marshy area.

It was impossible to recover Charles’s remains at the time, and it was only after many years of pressure, both by his family and interested air crash archaeologists that his remains were recovered in 1986. He was finally given a full military funeral when he was buried at the family home church of St.Oswald, near Doncaster in Yorkshire.

So now, that’s two of our friends in the photo we know about. Considering the debt we all owe to them, and other PRU pilots that took off from Benson never to return, can anyone else help to complete the jigsaw?

Benson CofE School  
*Mrs Preston, writes...*

For our school Nativity this year we chose to perform ‘Children of the World’ as part of our Olympic theme for 2011/12 it enabled us to discover how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

Two children from year 2 have written the following piece about the play.

“We did a different sort of nativity, all the angels had a ticket with a number and Gabriel, the head angel, picked out an envelope and these were the angels that were chosen. There were lots of different types of angel. There was Bossy angel, Smug angel, Kind angel, Hopeful angel, Excited angel, Clever angel and Fashion angel.

Those angels had to get children from Poland, USA, China, Ireland and Malawi to help celebrate baby Jesus being born. They went to different countries because it’s nearly the Olympics.

All the children from different countries told about what they do at Christmas. One of the Australian children said something funny, that Santa was arriving on a surfboard instead of a sleigh.

Our favourite songs were ‘Children of the World’ and ‘Come to the Manager’ because I like the dance”

Written by Ciaran Turnbull and Amelie Rowe. Year 2.

All the children in the Infants had a very important role to play and as ever rose to the challenge to make it a great success. We would like to thank all our children for their amazing singing, dancing and acting, it was a delight to see! Also a big thank you to all parents and staff who helped in many different ways. We really could not have done it without you!

Everybody at Benson School would like to wish you all the best for a successful year in 2012.
Planning a Conference or Meeting?
Looking for a Venue in South Oxfordshire?

New to Howbery Park October 2011
Conference Suite – for up to 80 delegates

- Conference/Meetings for up to 80 delegates
- Quiet location in parkland setting close to the River Thames, Crowmarsh
- Ample Parking
- Catering and hospitality available on request
- Also office space to let in beautiful surroundings

For further information, or to arrange a visit, please contact our Help Desk
On 01491 822411 or e-mail: howberyparkhelpdesk@hrwallingford.co.uk
www.howberypark.co.uk

NIXERCISE
Personal Training and
Group Boot Camps for Women

Forget the gym, join Nix for a fun, holistic approach to outdoor fitness.
One-to-One - a tailored session individually designed to suit your fitness goals.
Group Boot Camp - designed for women of all abilities.
Highly experienced, fully qualified and insured.
Achieve a stronger fitter more vibrant you.

Contact Nix on:
t: 07941 024958
e: nix@nixercise.co.uk
www.nixercise.co.uk

Want a well-balanced club?

At Goring & Streatley we're passionate about our golf. We have a wonderful downland course with true and fast greens and spectacular views over the Thames Valley and Goring Gap.

We are also passionate about being a friendly members club welcoming new members whatever their handicap.

If you fancy joining a friendly golf club that balances great golf with an active social programme, now is the time to come and have a chat.

Ask us why we are convinced this is the best value golf in the area.

Call Mike on 01491 873229

01491 873229 www.goringgolf.co.uk mike@goringgolf.co.uk
Youth Drama Group
Claire Borrowdale, writes...

‘Encore’, the new youth drama group from the Sinodun Players, will be holding a taster workshop for 11-18 year olds on Wednesday 8th February 2012, 7.30-9.30pm at the Corn Exchange, with sessions starting on Wednesday 22nd February 2012.

The workshop will introduce the team leaders, share exciting plans for new performances and give you the chance to work and meet with other members. Belonging to ‘Encore’ will give you an opportunity to gain experience on the Corn Exchange stage, get involved backstage and act alongside adult members of the Sinodun Players.

Those interested in performing, directing, designing costumes and sets please contact encoreyouth@sinodunplayers.org.uk to express an interest, as membership numbers will be limited.

To insert a flier in the BB contact Don Fletcher 01491 838577

Ewelme School Governing Body Vacancies

Ewelme School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School founded in 1437 for the education of any child. The original school is still in full working order, making this the “oldest continuously functioning school building” in the country.

Ewelme Primary School Governing Body has vacancies for 2 people (one current and one coming up in September 2012) to join the existing team of governors. Expressions of interest are welcomed from local people with an interest in education who feel that they can use their enthusiasm, experience and commitment to support the school community in providing a dynamic, thriving and caring learning environment for the children at Ewelme School.

If you are interested in finding out more about this both rewarding and challenging opportunity, please contact the Chair of Governors, with a short description of what you feel you could bring as a new governor to the school.

More information can be found on the Ewelme School Website: www.ewelme.oxon.sch.uk

Chair of Governors: Mary Taylor Lane
Email: marytaylorlane@gmail.com

Benson Community Pre-School
Jo Passey, writes...

Pre-school ended 2011 on a particularly high note with a visit from Father Christmas, a fantastic children’s Christmas party, organised by our wonderful staff and the highlight of the year for most parents, seeing our little ones in the Christmas Concert. It was wonderful to see the excitement on their faces as they sang their Christmas Carols and songs which they had practiced for some weeks beforehand.

The children have returned from the Christmas break full of energy and have thrown themselves into the topic ‘Let’s Explore’ enthusiastically learning a song about the senses and the different ways they can use their hands!! We will also be exploring China (not literally!) to coincide with the Chinese New Year.

We raised a fabulous amount of money in our Christmas fundraising which we intend to spend updating some of the resources for the children, including a dolls house and some new carpets for the children to sit on. We would also like to say a very special thank you to Lucy Morgan’s Grandma who kindly made our Christmas Cake for the ‘guess the weight of the Christmas Cake competition’. The winning weight was 7lbs 13oz.

Our thoughts are turning now to the Easter Raffle and the AGM. The raffle is one of the most important fundraisers of the year, and we have previously been generously supported by many local shops and businesses who have offered a fantastic array of prizes.

The AGM has been organised for the 27th March, 7.30pm, at the Parish Hall. The AGM will culminate in the Easter Raffle draw. We hope that you can come and join us, for wine and nibbles, as well as hearing about what we achieved in 2011 and what exciting things we have planned for 2012.
Welcome to JP Knight, a property agent with a refreshing new approach; we offer all the services you’d expect, but with a level of customer care, commitment and professionalism you’re unlikely to have encountered before.

New – but with years of experience behind us, we are an independent and family run company.

You’ll find us friendly, accessible and proactive, so contact us today to discuss your property requirements – and get ready to change your preconceptions of estate agents!

For a limited period only, there are 3 more reasons to choose JP Knight:

- Substantially discounted fees
- No VAT
- Free EPC’s

---

Benson Community Pre-school
Serving Benson & surrounding villages

Thursday afternoon sessions available from January 2012

To find out more or book your child’s place please contact us ASAP.

‘Good’ OFSTED rating (Feb 11), some areas ‘Outstanding’

Hours from Jan: Monday & Friday 9am-12noon
Tues, Wed & Thurs 9am-3pm

Details: www.bensonpreschool.co.uk

Contact: Sara Ogden 01491 824042
(during opening hours)
admin@bensonpreschool.co.uk

---

Domestic & Insurance work specialists
Traditional plastering
with a modern, professional service!

Over 20 yrs of clean, quality finishing!

Visit our website for more info & our extensive list of services

www.southernplastering.co.uk
01235-814413  07956-586778
Happy New Year from all at RAF Benson Community Primary School. We hope that you enjoyed the festive period with family and friends.

This month, our journalist team are reporting on the activities that took place last term in our Junior classes… over to them…

Happy New year from the RAF Benson Journalist team! Here is what has been happening in the Juniors.

**Chinook Class** (Year 6)

Last term we had a great time studying the incredible Victorians and their inventions. We were amazed by the effect of the railways, steam power and machines on rural life of that period. Our walk around Ewelme Village was great too; we picked some berries and had a brilliant time.

We particularly enjoyed the Christmas Play this year. The audience were blown off their seats by the glorious group of singers standing in front of them. For us, the Christmas Spectacular was the highlight of Christmas.

**Merlin Class** (Year 5)

Last term, we travelled back in time to learn all about the Great Plague of 1665. We were on a fact finding mission to research the devastating effects of the plague on people and towns. We worked hard to create a poster for the cure and really loved making origami rats.

**Apache Class** (Year 4)

Oliver Twist and his adventures helped us to understand the Victorian Era. We used this Dickens story to write a character study looking at good and evil. The book provided us with great inspiration on the arts and crafts of that period. We made some Victorian lanterns and sewn aprons and, best of all, recorded our own version of ‘Consider Yourself’.

**Puma Class** (Year 3)

This term ‘Mongy the Bayfrog’ took us on an amazing rainforest experience. He helped us to explore rainforest animals and people as well as taught us about the importance of the rainforest and how we can save it. A trip to Living Rainforest was a great way to finish our topic. The Living Rainforest guides were seriously impressed with our knowledge!! We also won the Enterprise Challenge set out by Mrs Fawdry. Our eco-Inspired Christmas decorations made from recycled and natural materials were sold on our stall at the Christmas Fair.

We are also pleased to have had our very first ‘out of school’ assignment by interviewing the winner and judges at the final of the RAF Benson ‘Movember’ Competition. There were some really unusual moustaches and we were pleased to say it was not a ‘hair raising’ experience!

This is the RAF Benson Journalist team signing off, until next month.

Puma Class (Year 3) at the Living Rainforest

---

**Corn Exchange in February**

_Claire Borrowdale, writes…_

**Cinema**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Age Rating</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1st &amp; Thur 2nd</td>
<td><strong>Hugo</strong> (U/12a tbc) (Matinee Sat 4th 2.30 pm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 3rd - Thur 9th</td>
<td><strong>The Iron Lady</strong> (12A) (Matinee Sun 5th 3.00pm)</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10th - Thur 16th</td>
<td><strong>Warhorse</strong> (12A) Not suitable for U10s (Matinee Sat 11th 2.30pm)</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17th</td>
<td><strong>Another Earth</strong> (12A) (Matinee Sun 26th 3.00pm)</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24th</td>
<td><strong>The Deep Blue Sea</strong> (12A) (Matinee Sun 26th 3.00pm)</td>
<td>12A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All evening cinema performances commence at 7.30pm. Bookings can be made online at www.cornexchange.org.uk, by phone on 01491 825000, by post or in person - the Box Office is open 7pm-8pm every evening and 10am-1pm every Friday and Saturday.
MICHAEL GEE
MARKET GARDEN
Basket and Patio plants
Hanging Baskets and Tubs
Seasonal Bedding and Vegetable Plants
Perennials and Herbs
Compost, Canes and Sundries

Find us at: PYRTON Nr. WATLINGTON OX49 5AN
01491 612479

John Taylor (Ewelme) Ltd
Specialist Heating Engineers

Gas – Oil – Solar – LPG – Underfloor Heating
System Upgrades, Flushing & Thermal Imaging

07967 503905 or 01491 833538

Gas Safe, OFTEC & MCS registered. jteklive.co.uk

BENSON GARAGE
24hr Vehicle Rescue
MOT’s, Servicing and Repairs
High Street
Benson
Phone: (24hrs) 01491 838333
Phone: 01491 826220
www.bensongarage.co.uk

Breakdown & Recovery Service
MOT & Preparation
Car repairs
Car servicing
Tyre Supply & Fitting
Welding

Approved MOT Testing Station

Clutch replacement
Batteries
Shock Absorbers
Engine Repairs
Vehicle Diagnostics
Parts Sales

WE PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF GARAGE SERVICES TO THE AREA & BREAKDOWN/RECOVERY SERVICES FOR MOST OF THE UK’s LEADING INSURANCE COMPANIES

‘Providing Quality Customer Care’
A Happy New Year to everybody. Hopefully by now we should have a full and enthusiastic Committee as elected at the January’s Annual General Meeting. It is the time of year when our subscriptions are due and we thank our members for their continued support. With approval of members, the Committee has recommended that the fees remain the same as last year. Details of the Society’s future programme and reports for 2011 can be found in the Library folder.

Our next meeting will be on February 24th when Liz Woolley of the Oxfordshire Local History Association will give us an insight into the ‘Night-time Haven of the Wandering Tribes’ (the lodgings of poor Victorian women). As usual there will be the chance to purchase an excellent buffet supper at £3. Visitors are always very welcome at meetings.

Our first trip of the year was to visit the Da Vinci Collection at the National Gallery on 5th January and although arranged at short notice this was very popular and fully subscribed. The next outing will be to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 22nd March and later in the year we hope to visit the Thames Barrier and the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Paul Booker is also taking bookings for a trip to the Floriade Horticultural Expo in Holland between 14th and 18th June. The Floriade happens every 10 years and the planned itinerary includes guided travel, accommodation and entertainment as well as the Floriade. Please register your interest as soon as possible with Paul on 01491 825864, who will be happy to provide further information on this and all other Society trips.

Sue Brown (Secretary) 01491 837885.

The hall was packed full with people and the band treated the audience to a mini world tour without having to leave their seats! We were on stage for about 45 minutes and our programme comprised of a mix of pieces from all around the globe including Born Free (Africa), Concierto de Aranjuez (Spain), All That Jazz (Chicago) and The Final Countdown (Europe). We were extremely pleased that Benson School Choir was able to join us this year as well. The children and their teacher, Rebecca Carpenter, were absolutely brilliant performing a selection of modern day tracks, a Queen medley and a Christmas medley. The band then joined them at the end of their set to play and sing ‘We Wish You a Merry Christmas’. The band and the school really came together for the evening and everyone who was there had a really enjoyable evening.

The band was also busy playing and collecting money for charity. We played outside Tesco and Sainsbury’s in Didcot, Sotwell Hill House, the Masonic Lodge in Wallingford, the Home Sweet Home, in Benson for the Christmas shopping evening and for shoppers busy buying their last minute supplies on the morning of Christmas Eve. To finish the festive season we were in the church for the community carol singing, which was another really lovely evening.

Because of our hard work and people’s generosity we will be able to give a nice donation to each of our 3 charities: The MS Therapy Centre on Milton Park, the Haematology Unit at The Churchill, and Seesaw. We don’t yet know the final amount raised, so I will tell you the exact amounts in my next article.

We’ve had a couple of weeks off to re-charge our batteries and will resume practice nights during the second week of January. We will now be focussing on our programme for 2012 - a big year what with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics! Already we have some engagements in the diary:

19th May – Great Haseley Village Fete
4th June – Benson & Dorchester Diamond Jubilee celebrations
17th June – Wallingford Castle Gardens
7th July – Tiddington Village Fete

For updates on our programme and details on how to join the band please refer to our website www.rokeandbensonbrassband.org.

Natalie Wyatt
Juggling your childcare? Need an easy solution??

Scamps of Benson offers you a complete, flexible service for all your childcare needs.

We provide:
- before school (breakfast) and after school clubs, with drop off and pick up from 8 local schools.
- holiday clubs for children aged 4 - 14 years running during every school holiday.

We have:
- A pre-school room offering Foundation Stage Teaching.
- a toddler area.
- baby rooms.

All areas are covered by dedicated and qualified staff.

We are Ofsted registered and inspected.

We are open from 7.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

For further information:

Scamps of Benson Ltd,
Lowfield House,
Churchfield Lane,
Benson,
Oxon.
OX10 6SH

01491 835047/07796 255707
info@scampsofbenson.com
www.scampsofbenson.co.uk
Benson Tennis Club

Happy New Year to you all, and if you are feeling a bit sluggish after one too many mince pies, why not come down to the tennis club and work off a few pounds?

Junior after school coaching courses will continue on Mondays and Tuesdays with Mandy Nall, and on Saturday mornings with Peter Worroll. Junior coaching on Wednesday evenings will also continue after half-term from 22nd February. Don’t forget too we also run supervised Junior Clubnight on Friday evenings between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. This is available for all junior members (approx 9-10 years onwards), to practice their skills and enjoy some social tennis with friends.

Senior clubnight continues on Thursday evenings and the Oxford winter league matches of various standards are now well underway, so we do offer something for everyone.

If you are interested in finding out more about the tennis club, please contact Liz on the email below, or check out our website, www.bensontennisclub.co.uk

Liz Bowles (liz_btc@yahoo.co.uk)

Benson Short Mat Bowls

Happy New Year to all the Short Mat Bowlers in Benson and the surrounding district. Following our open evening in the autumn we are pleased to welcome our new members who are already showing great promise as bowlers.

We are a four mat venue and currently are only using three mats, so there is still room for more players. Bowling is not a difficult game and the rules are very simple and all you need to start are some flat shoes, slippers will do. So do you want a new hobby? Do you want a couple of hours out of the house twice a week?

Do you want some gentle exercise with good company then come and join us in Benson Parish Hall on a Monday afternoon 1.30 – 4.15 and Wednesday evening 6.45 until 9 ish. For further information please contact Marilyn Atkins 01491 832656.

Benson Garden Club

Following a very festive Xmas time meeting we all reassembled in January for a quiz evening. Taxing our brains, but in a friendly manner, a very pleasant evening was had with lots of chatter and a surprising amount of combined plant knowledge. Now we look forward to a pruning lesson in February with a retired professor from the Oxford Forestry Institute. Sounds like he should know what he is talking about! Then for March we are promised some Skulduggery in the Shrubbery, with Stefan White, which has got us all interested anyway! Why not come and join us and cheer up these miserable cold evenings with some good company and reminders of things to look forward to when the weather changes. We have a cuppa and an amusing array of raffle prizes to end each indoor evening and it is definitely worth turning out for, and at a very reasonable subscription, join us now to get the most out of it. Benson Parish Hall, first Thursdays of each month at 7.30, see the Diary page.

Penny Noble

Benson Evergreens

Although it seems a long time ago, I’m sure we all remember the very enjoyable Christmas party which our hard working committee organized for members on the 14th December.

The hall had such a festive air as we arrived and the tables and the raffle prizes had been beautifully decorated.

After the very professional entertainment “Anything Goes” - a mini-Old Time Music Hall act, an excellent Christmas tea was followed by the drawing of the bumper free raffle. All in all it made a very good start to the Christmas season.

Our January meeting was a much more practical talk about Personal Alarms (Telephone lifelines). This was given by Jeannie McGeehin for CATS Alarms, a locally based company. She gave us a very clear picture of the benefits of wearing a personal alarm and comparable prices with other providers.

The meeting on the 8th February will be our Annual General Meeting commencing at 2.30p.m. when we will be electing the new committee for 2012. We look forward to seeing

Continued overleaf....
As we are right on your doorstep, why not come and join us this year?

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

CHRIS TAPPIN

• Handmade Bespoke Kitchens
• Range of Off the Shelf Kitchens to suit all budgets
• Kitchen makeovers with new worktops and doors
• Bedroom and Bathroom furniture
• Tables and Dressers etc.
Local craftsman with over 25 years experience
Call 07860356390

Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Richard J Douglas
HPC Registered CH24779

Grainge Auto Services

NEED YOUR CAR SERVICED?

• ALL MAKES AND MODELS
• SERVICING AND REPAIRS
01491 835 002
Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Jill Parrick

Wallingford U3A saw the 2011 programme out with a visit to London to the Christmas Markets beside the Thames, a tour of the Christmas Lights in the West End and a pub supper on a converted boat in Docklands. The weather held, and everyone seemed pleased. The last monthly meeting was the Christmas Party. James Sherwood provided the Cabaret: wit, songs, political comment and a piano. He was funny, sophisticated and much appreciated.

The Monthly Meetings are held at 2.00 pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. Visitors are welcome. Please visit our website: www.wallingfordu3a.org.uk

Deirdre Wilson

Ridgeway U3A

On February 21st, 2.30 pm, in the Sports Pavilion, Watlington Recreation Ground, we welcome Paul Carter who is to initiate us into the mysteries of the United States Presidential Election; an insight into the processes of how candidates are selected and elected. 2012 is an election year in the 4 year cycle so this background will be very relevant for those hoping to follow events.

Retired and semi-retired visitors welcome, £2.50. For more details on how to join, contact Jacky Wagstaff, jackywag@yahoo.com or 01491 613175

Benson Trefoils

Our December meeting was our Christmas party. We had some visitors from other Trefoil Guilds. Some members recited Christmas poems; the committee members did a comedy sketch; we had carols and our special guest Teddy “reciting the night before Christmas”. We had hot mince pies and a fruit mulled wine – a very good evening and everyone enjoyed themselves and took home a small gift.

Our meetings are every 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Millstream Centre. For more details contact Jackie Spencer on 839934

Benson W.I.

Our Christmas meeting got off to a good start with mulled wine and mince pies. Musical entertainment followed with a selection of well known and not so well known carols from around the world brought to us by Keith Harris and Leslie Morris.

Our speaker on February 15th will be Angela Pawlyn. Her talk is entitled “From cocoon to scarf”. Benson W.I. meet in the Parish Hall every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors always welcome. For more information ring Mary Doney on 838748.

Wallingford Photographic Club

The second ‘term’ of the club’s year continues its’ programme of excellent speakers, discussion evenings and competition and has plenty of interest in it, as on February 16 when we are fortunate to have Brian Tufano returning to give us a practical evening on lighting. There is also time for members to reflect on the photographic image that has influenced them the most in their own photography. Why not visit us in the Crowmarsh Sports Pavilion one Thursday evening in the near future?

2nd Feb – ‘The Photograph that has influenced me most’ – members have five minutes each.

9th Feb – Monthly Competition – Industrial Landscape – only members may enter.

16th Feb – Brian Tufano gives a Practical Lighting Session

23rd Feb – Photoshop and ‘Plug-ins’

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 8pm - 10pm

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
EWELME VILLAGE HALL

Available for letting for regular bookings, meetings, children’s parties etc.

REASONABLE RATES
Booking Secretary
Anne Critchley — 01491 834403

Oakwood
BESPOKE JOINERY

- Staircases
- Windows & Doors
- Kitchens
- Furniture
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Bookcases & Storage

01491 827569 www.oakwood-bespoke-joinery.co.uk
enquiries@oakwood-bespoke-joinery.co.uk

DO YOU OWN A 4 WHEEL DRIVE?

FRAGSISLAND
4X4

WE SPECIALISE IN THE
SERVICE & REPAIR OF
ALL MAKES OF 4WD &
give a professional
& personalised service

CALL OR EMAIL FOR HELP
& INFORMATION
T: 01235 832100
E: GARY@FRAGSISLAND4X4.COM
178A MILTON PARK
ABINGDON, OX14 4SE

Teresa
Jayne
Catering

Local Catering for your
Special Events

07770 828339
teresa.mcteague@btinternet.com

Tvr
Self Drive

- Cars
- Vans
- MINI-BUS
- Trucks
- Breakdown Cover
- Continental Hire
- Low Deposit
- Special Rates

Tel Wallingford 01491 837596
Tel Kidlington 01865 842852
www.tvr-selfdrive.co.uk

Kidlington open Mon-Fri 8.30-5.30
Sat 8.30-12.00 Sun 8.30-9.30
Wallingford open Mon-Fri 8.30-2.00
Sat 8.30-12.00

The Bike Repair Man
Servicing & repairs for ALL bikes

Cytech qualified mechanic
FREE collection & delivery

Call Dave,
The Bike Repair Man
01491 838009 or 07968 699460
www.thebikerepairman.com

Teresajayne Catering

Local Catering for your Special Events

07770 828339
teresa.mcteague@btinternet.com
The Benson Bulletin is published by Benson Bulletin News Association, and delivered free to all households in Benson, RAF Benson, Roke, Rokemarsh, Berrick Salome and Ewelme. All concerned in its production and delivery are volunteers. Material published in The Benson Bulletin is copyright, but the Editor may grant permission for reproduction upon request. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in The Benson Bulletin, the Editor and Publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any errors that may occur. Neither are the opinions published in The Benson Bulletin necessarily those of the Editor or The Benson Bulletin News Association. The Editor is pleased to receive material for publication, but reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject it at her discretion. Copy may be submitted via e-mail to bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk. Typed and handwritten copy is also acceptable and should be delivered/sent to Benson Parish Hall before the 12th of the month previous to publication. All printed photographs will be scanned and returned.

### Benson Parish Hall

**Benson Parish Office:** 01491 825038  
**Office hours:** Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri 0930 am to 1230 pm  
**Short Mat Bowls** Mon 2-4pm/Wed 7-10pm  
**Badminton** Mon 8-10pm  
**Bingo** Tues 7-9pm  
**Floodlit Tennis** Thurs 7.00pm  
**TO HIRE**  
**BENSON PARISH or YOUTH HALL**  
**TEL/FAX** 01491 825038

### Benson Youth Hall

**Table Tennis** Fri 8 - 10pm  
**Baby & Toddler Group** Thur 1.30 - 3.30pm  
**email your news to** bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk

### About Benson Bulletin

**bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk Est. 1994**

The Benson Bulletin is published by Benson Bulletin News Association, and delivered free to all households in Benson, RAF Benson, Roke, Rokemarsh, Berrick Salome and Ewelme. All concerned in its production and delivery are volunteers. Material published in The Benson Bulletin is copyright, but the Editor may grant permission for reproduction upon request. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in The Benson Bulletin, the Editor and Publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of any errors that may occur. Neither are the opinions published in The Benson Bulletin necessarily those of the Editor or The Benson Bulletin News Association. The Editor is pleased to receive material for publication, but reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject it at her discretion. Copy may be submitted via e-mail to bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk. Typed and handwritten copy is also acceptable and should be delivered/sent to Benson Parish Hall before the 12th of the month previous to publication. All printed photographs will be scanned and returned.

### BB’s Deadlines

**Copy:** 12th of month previous  
**Advertising:** 12th of month previous

The Benson Bulletin  
c/o Benson Parish Hall  
Sunnyside  
Benson, Oxon. OX10 6LZ

**BBNA Committee Members:-**

- **Chairman** George Craig 839071  
- **Treasurer** Kyri Kyriakoudis 839810  
- **Secretary** Patricia Baylis 826289  
- **Advertising** Anne Fowler 201734  
- **Clubs’ Sec** Jill Parrick 838634  
- **Distribution** Don Fletcher 838577  
- **Editor** Anne Fowler 201734  
- **Asst Editor** Tom Stevenson 836888

---

**Wallingford Country Market**

Every Friday, Regal Centre, Wallingford 8.30 -11.15  
Local Plants - Bedding Bonanza! Fresh Home Baking, Preserves, Honey, Eggs, Seasonal Produce, Flowers and Hand Crafted items  
Info: 01491 202419  
**Wallingford Local Producers Market**

Every Saturday morning 10am - 1pm  
Regal Centre, Wallingford  
Local products for local people

---

**Classified Ads....**  
Tel: 01491 201734

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning** by your local specialists. Wet or dry systems used. Trained, insured & NCCA approved. Quality work at unbeatable rates. Call Grimebusters 01865 726983 / 01235 555533

**Everything you need** to maintain your carpets & hard floors, domestic & industrial. Call us for free advice. Clean Machine Ltd Wallingford 01491 825600 www.machinesthatclean.com

**House and Office Clearance**, removals, everything cleared including rubbish. Items of furniture purchased. Licenced. Tel: 01491 572423 Mob: 07941 935168

**All Rubbish Cleared**, garden, plastic, glass, wood, unwanted furniture, anything. Licenced waste carrier. Tel: 01491 572423 Mob: 07941 935168

**Lady Gardener** available for general garden maintenance, also home cleaning. Reasonable rates. Phone Diana on 07880 691704

**Danny’s Gardening Services** Grass Cutting - Landscaping and driveways. Reliable. Good Rates. No job too big or small. Tel 07887 580261 or 01491 837230

**Dried Mealworms** £12/kg or £7/500g. Give your garden birds/hedgehogs a treat. Limited stock, first come, first served. Tel: 01491 201734

---

**Wallingford Country Market**

Every Friday, Regal Centre, Wallingford 8.30 -11.15  
Local Plants - Bedding Bonanza! Fresh Home Baking, Preserves, Honey, Eggs, Seasonal Produce, Flowers and Hand Crafted items  
Info: 01491 202419  
**Wallingford Local Producers Market**

Every Saturday morning 10am - 1pm  
Regal Centre, Wallingford  
Local products for local people