The Benson Bulletin
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For
Village News
Activities Information
and
Guide
to Local Services

This Month...
• SODC Benson Local Plan
• In Memoriam: Dr Anne Millar
• FOBL Agreement
• RAF News
• BVH / PO Christmas Opening Times
• School News
• Local Clubs & Societies

Benson Village Christmas Street Fayre

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December/January 2013/14

Volume 20 No. 4
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Editor’s Column
Anne Fowler writes...

December again, nearly Christmas, getting chilly so keep topping up the bird feeders. As winter draws in, please be careful on any ice and see if you can help your elderly neighbours with shopping or path clearing, or just see if they are OK. This is a double issue of the Benson Bulletin, we don’t publish in January, but we will be back with you in February.

We were all very sorry to hear about the passing of Dr Anne Millar. She was a very high profile member of our community for many years, and will be sadly missed.

Please don’t forget to support the Benson Christmas Street Fayre on Wednesday 4th December. It starts at 5.30pm and ends at 7.30pm, so go along and take advantage of the gifts and food on offer.

The Crown Inn at Benson is hosting the RAF Benson Military Wives Choir on Sunday 15th December at 4.00pm. This is a charity concert in aid of Helen and Douglas house. Go along and enjoy this highly professional band of singers, and put your hand in your pocket for this very worthy cause.

Over the Christmas period the Benson Volunteer Helpline has different opening hours – please check them on page 2 if you are intending to call. They are also in need of volunteer office staff and volunteer drivers. If you have some time to spare for either of these roles, please call Elizabeth on 01491 838580 to find out more.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Benson Bulletin
AGM
Tue 18 Feb 2014
Parish Hall Lounge
8.00pm

Benson Bulletin invites all BB readers, advertisers and residents to its AGM in February. Please come along to find out how the magazine is produced, financed and distributed - meet the team.
We look forward to seeing you.

email your letters/articles to
bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk
or deliver/send them to
Benson Parish Hall

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Benson School has a new initiative to help raise some extra money for our school, and best of all it doesn’t cost Benson Bulletin readers a penny and only takes a few seconds of their time.

“The Giving Machine” is a not for profit social enterprise that generates free donations every time you shop online.

It’s linked to 700 major retailers, like Amazon, eBay, Argos, John Lewis and all the main supermarkets, so if you are shopping online for Christmas presents or just doing your weekly big shop, with a couple of clicks you can help raise extra money for the school.

All Benson Bulletin readers need to do is register with the Giving Machine at www.thegivingmachine.co.uk linking to Benson C of E Primary School and then visit the home page before starting your normal internet shopping.

Our aim is to get 200 registered shoppers before Christmas! We would really appreciate any help your readers can give us - Thank you so much.

Harriet Render
Friends of Benson School.

Dear Ed,

On reading Don Fletcher’s well justified thanks to long serving BB distributors in the October issue, I would like to add my thanks to Don himself, who has been organising it for so long.

Well done Don! I would also like to express my thanks to the great editors who have kept this great little journal going after its inception by Peter Clarke and Frank Moran. I always look forward to reading it each month.

Janet Burtt

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!

Benson Volunteer Helpline
Mon-Fri 9-11am
Call 01491 825992
to ask for help or to volunteer

Christmas and New Year Opening Times

The Benson Volunteer Helpline office will close on Friday 20th December at 11am and re-open on Monday 6th January 2014. For help over this period please telephone Elizabeth (01491) 838580 or Eileen (01491) 833664.

We wish everyone the Seasons Greetings.

Benson Volunteer Helpline AGM

The Annual General meeting of the helpline will be held at the Millstream Day Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th December.

We look forward to seeing you. All welcome.

Elizabeth Leppard

Benson Open Gardens

Julia Leppard, writes ...

Millstream Day Centre is looking to raise funds by holding an open gardens event in Benson village on Sunday 22 June 2014.

We need gardens of all shapes and sizes for people to visit. Do you have a garden that looks good in June that you would be willing to open to visitors? If so, then please get in touch with Ian Leppard, Chairman, Millstream Day Centre Tel: 01491 838580.
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Residents in South Oxfordshire who haven’t sent back their voter registration forms are being encouraged to do so as soon as possible to help save public money being spent on reminders.

**Thames Valley Police**
I recently met Sara Thornton the Chief Constable to discuss policing in austerity. Thames Valley Police has made a very strong response to meeting its financial challenge over the last two years. It has limited the impact of the cuts on the frontline workforce in a way very few other forces have been able to achieve; protecting its crime fighting capability by driving up efficiencies in other areas. It is one of only four forces in England and Wales where the number of police officers in frontline roles is planned to increase. In addition the force has demonstrated excellent performance in reducing crime over the spending review period.

**Assets of Community Value**
The Localism Act 2011 introduced the Community Right to Bid which gives eligible organisations such as Town/Parish Councils and defined community groups the opportunity to nominate an asset/s (building/land) they believe to be important to their community wellbeing, to be listed by the local Authority as an Asset of Community Value.

When a listed asset comes up for sale, the Community Right to Bid for Assets of Community Value provides a delay in the sale process (moratorium) of six months. The range of assets that can be considered is varied and includes open green spaces, libraries, heritage sites, village shops, pubs etc

More info from the Community Strategy team at SODC on 01491 823 612.

**Winter**
With Winter upon us please remember the elderly and vulnerable in your community. Everyday tasks often become difficult in poor weather. Clear neighbours paths after a snow fall or if they are icy, offer to go to the shops, small things make such a difference.

Enjoy the festive season and please contact me if you have a district matter you think I may be able to help with. Tel: 01491 823000 or email: felixbloomfield@hotmail.com

**Parish Councillors Report**
*Cllr Jon Fowler, writes ...*

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year. See you on the other side.

**Remembrance Day Parade**
Thank you to everyone that attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the village War Memorial on November 10th. There was a great turn out from the village and RAF Benson on a cold but dry morning. Thanks must go to all the organisers for ensuring the event went like clock-work.

**Allotments**
The Parish Council has a couple of vacant allotments at the moment so if you fancy some exercise and growing your own vegetables contact the Parish Office via email: bensonparish.council@virgin.net or call 01491 825038.

**Trees**
A number of people have asked about the trees that were removed from the junction of Church Road and the A4074. The trees were removed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) without any prior notice to the Parish Council. OCC explained the trees were at risk of shedding large branches onto the footpath / highway hence their removal. They have committed to planting replacements in due course.

**Parish Hall Extension**
Thank you to everyone that came along to the display of the draft plans for an extension to the Parish Hall. The large majority of feedback was positive and supportive. There were several comments about facilities for young families / youth of the village. The Parish Council certainly hasn’t forgotten about the need for such facilities – our strategy is to look for facilities to be provided on some of the development land earmarked for additional housing (we have already had initial discussion with one of the land agents and will be talking to other land owners in the future).
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Est 1974 and formerly of
Chalgrove
Benson Local Plan  
*Tom Rice (SODC), writes...*

**New Housing in Benson**

South Oxfordshire District Council is starting work on a Local Plan which amongst other things will include new housing allocations at Benson. We held an exhibition on 12 November 2013 in the village hall to raise awareness that this work was starting and to seek initial views from residents on the different site options and infrastructure and facilities that may be needed. At present the housing allocation for Benson is in the order of 125 new homes until 2027.

We were pleased that so many people attended the exhibition, around 140 residents, and that they provided thoughtful and extensive comments. There seemed to be an understanding that more housing, particularly smaller and more affordable homes, are urgently required.

We asked residents what their top three priorities are for matters to be considered in selecting housing sites, the top three identified were:

- Splitting development over a number of sites to keep them smaller and ensure better integration with the existing village (59)
- Protecting landscape and views (39)
- Positioning development so that it has the least impact on traffic congestion and pollution (33)

We asked what residents liked about Benson and what they would like to see change if more housing is built. Some ideas that emerged included:

- Residents value living in a small but vibrant community that is well served by a number of shops and services (8).
- Residents understood that there was a need for housing but it was argued this should include a mix of housing size and tenure, including affordable homes (9).
- New development was also seen as an opportunity for improving the existing transport infrastructure (8).

Finally we asked residents to identify their three favoured sites for new housing, these were:
- BEN 7 (land south of St. Helen’s Avenue)
- BEN 2 (land north of Sunnyside)
- BEN 1 (land north of Littleworth Road)

(You can view these sites on our website: www.southoxon.gov.uk/SHLAA)

**What next?**

We have a lot more work to do and people to speak to before any final decisions are made. We will collect further information from residents and organisations supplying infrastructure and services. We will also investigate in more detail possible difficulties, for example noise from roads and aircraft.

The decisions on which sites to choose and on priorities for supporting infrastructure will be difficult and will involve compromises. We will aim to involve the parish council and there will also be further events for residents to give us their views.

You can find out more on our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan. You can also register to be alerted by email about any future consultation events. We would be pleased to receive any views from residents and you can email us: planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk or telephone Tom Rice on 01491 823725.

**Scouts Christmas Post**

*Mick Brown, writes...*

The Scouts Christmas Post will commence on Monday 2nd December 2013. This year the 1st Benson Scouts Group will only be delivering to the following areas:

- **Benson**
- **Roke & Rokemarsh**
- **Shillingford & Preston Crowmarsh**
- **Berrick Salome & Warborough**

The post box will be located in the Chiltern Produce Greengrocers in the High Street.

**Collection Dates:**

- Friday 6th, Thursday 12th, Wednesday 18th December

Last day for posting will be Wednesday 18th December 2013 and the cost will be 25p per card.

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Friends of Benson Library

*Cllr Dave Rushton, writes ...*

The Friends of Benson Library signed a formal agreement with the Oxfordshire Library Service on Wed 30th Oct, with Trustees Dave Rushton & Robert James signing on behalf of the Friends’ Trust. The Agreement sets out the support to be provided by FOBL, the services to be provided by the Library Service and the future governance of the library.

I believe the Agreement confirms the future role of Benson Library as an integral part of the local community and provides a template for other libraries facing cut backs. I believe it is possible to work together in a partnership agreement given good will on both sides, and see this Agreement as an important step and a positive move towards saving an essential part of our local community.

I would also like to pay tribute to the current professional staff who have done such a wonderful job in Benson Library. The fact that our library is successful and is very much alive is down to their hard work and dedication.

Benson Outreach Post Office

*Angela Foot, writes ...*

**Benson Outreach Post Office**

**Benson Parish Hall Pavilion**

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**UK Last Posting dates for Christmas**

* Wednesday 18th December 2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For*
* Friday 20th December 1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For Parcelforce Worldwide express 48*
* Monday 23rd December Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed, Parcelforce Worldwide Express 24*

For more information call in and see us.

We will be closed on Tuesday 24th 1pm-4pm, Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th December, Tuesday 31st December 1pm-4pm, Wednesday 1st January.

Back to normal hours Friday 27th December and Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd January.

Advance payments of any benefits due on 25th, 26th, 27th or 30th December will be payable on Monday 23rd December. Those due on 1st January will be payable on Tuesday 31st December.

May we take this opportunity of thanking you for your continuous support and wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.
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In Memoriam

Dr Anne Elizabeth Millar

Anne Millar, known affectionately by everyone as Dr Anne, died on 21st October, thus ending a 60 year period in which she gave dedicated service to Benson.

Anne moved to Benson in 1953 when her husband Andrew became a partner in the practice in Dorchester on Thames.

They built a house in Mill Lane and had the foresight to add a surgery on the same site. The surgery was small but was probably one of the first purpose built surgeries in Oxfordshire. At the time Anne had a young family but she started working in the practice as an assistant in the mid-60s. For the next 20 years all medical services in Benson were run from the family home. In 1970 the Dorchester partnership split up and the main practice moved to Berinsfield. Anne and Andrew became partners in the new practice in Benson. There is currently discussion in the news about lack of access to GPs; not so for Anne and Andrew who were on call 24 hours a day, seven days each week, and everyone in the village knew that they only had to knock on their door for medical assistance.

Anne was an excellent doctor, sometimes forthright but always doing her best for her patients. She was a skilful clinician and I learnt a lot from her when I joined the practice. Over the 30 years she was a GP, she served the Benson community. During all this time her positive attitude, enthusiasm and energy were undiminished. There was no common room in the original surgery, so she provided refreshments at her kitchen table after surgeries. At the same time she provided invaluable support for her colleagues and attached staff. She was highly respected by colleagues because she was approachable and thoughtful, full of expertise and good sense. When Andrew died in 1982, she continued to practice for a further 8 years, during which time she helped to plan and build the new surgery in the centre of Benson, as part of her succession planning.

Anne was particularly interested in child health and was expert both in the care of sick children and child development. She ran the baby clinic in the Village Hall for many years, ably assisted by her lieutenant Mrs Parks. There will be many people in Benson today, both parents and children, who benefitted from her skills.

Anne was involved in the modernisation programme of Wallingford Community Hospital in the 1970s. This was an innovative project, establishing one of the first ‘community’ as opposed to ‘cottage’ hospitals in the country. When she retired from the Benson practice, she continued briefly as the medical director of the hospital.

Outside of medicine, Anne had many interests. She was a superb gardener with an encyclopaedic knowledge of horticulture, the Latin names of plants and composting! She was devoted to her dogs and her daily walk with...
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In Memoriam (Cont.)

them on Swyncombe Woods was sacrosanct. She made huge contributions to village life. Anne was a long standing WI member and was president for several years. She was instrumental in setting up the Benson Area Play Scheme (known as BAPS) which provided multiple activities for school-age children for two weeks in the summer holidays. She had a wonderful ability to conscript many adult helpers into the scheme; it was hard to say ‘no’ to Dr Anne! She helped to establish the Mill Stream Day Centre, persuading the local council to build a room for this purpose as an extension to the new sheltered accommodation in Mill Stream. She was a member of the committee until her death. She served on the Parish Council including a spell as chair, after retirement from medicine and also helped in the planning of the new parish hall. Anne was a founder member of the Benson Ecological Study Team (BEST). She was an active member of the church and played violin in the church orchestra for years. She instigated the building of the new lych-gate in the churchyard to celebrate the millennium. She was insistent that the structure was built using traditional methods.

Many of you will have your own stories about Dr Anne but one anecdote, told by Rev. John Burrell at her funeral service, sums up her kindness and her single mindedness. Soon after John moved into the vicarage, she arrived unannounced on his door step, stick in one hand and tape measure in the other. She announced ‘I have come to survey your garden’. While John held the tape, she measured up the flower beds and over the next 2 years helped to renovate the garden.

After these many years of service to Benson, it was truly fitting that the parish council should honour her by naming a road Millar Close.

Dr Anne, Benson will miss you, but we will never forget the legacy you have left behind in this village.

Dr Peter Rose

You will see, elsewhere, a more formal obituary but Dr Anne was such an important influence in several organisations in which I am involved that I cannot let her passing go without comment. Where do you start?

Are there any aspects of village life or local organisations that Anne didn’t play an important or, more normally, a leading part? She was a brilliant and efficient organizer of many facets of the life of the village. I have tried to list some of the organisations and projects she was involved in but I am sure others could add more.

The Women’s Institute.
Children’s holiday activities (BAPS). Day Centre Benson Ecological Study Team Ewelme Trust Ewelme Watercress Beds Lych Gate Benson parish Council War Memorial

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Dr Anne Millar (Cont.)
Tom Stevenson, writes ...

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Choir

It would be possible to write a 500 word article on her contribution to each of the above and, in addition, many individuals will be aware of the generous, anonymous donations she made to many projects and organisations. Without her influence BEST and The Watercress Beds would be very inferior. The Ewelme guides still quote her on every tour. When explaining about the dangers of Liver Fluke associated with eating watercress Dr Anne’s statement “in all my years of being in local General Practice I have never had a case of Liver Fluke” is repeated.

Dr Anne’s 80th Birthday Party at Millbrook Mead

She was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and even found time to take a degree in botany. More than anything else was her kindness. She once told me that she employed someone to do some gardening for her and asked him to weed her asparagus bed. He pulled up the weeds but the asparagus plants as well. Rather than berate him she waited for him to go home at the end of the day and then retrieved the plants from the compost heap and replanted them herself.

I am writing this feeling sad as well as with a feeling of guilt! Some years ago I initiated the collection of information with a view to trying to get Anne a gong of some sort but it all became such a hassle and tortuous task that I never persevered. She will always be Lady Anne in my mind.

What a lucky day for Benson when Anne came and made such an outstanding contribution to the life and well-being of our village.

PCSO Update

Here is the latest Benson and Berinsfield neighbourhood update from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Rebekah Kent and PCSO Sarah Jones.

The local priority is Burglary and Attempted Burglary. The neighbourhood team have been and will continue to carry out high visibility patrols to help combat and deter these incidents.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
We had one incident of ASB reported in Benson where children were running in and out of cars on the Oxford Road.

Have Your Say Meetings in December
Thursday 5th – Bridge End car park, Dorchester on Thames 3pm – 3.30pm
Monday 9th – Parish Hall car park, Sunnyside, Benson 6pm – 6.30pm
Tuesday 17th – Village Hall lay-by, Nuneham Courtenay 5.30pm – 6pm
Thursday 19th – Library car park, Berinsfield 6pm – 6.30pm

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local police officers and PCSOs about any local issues, no appointment is necessary just turn up. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

If you want any crime reduction advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101. For any emergency situations or to report a crime in progress please call 999.
**Shaun Guard**

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St Helen’s Junior Choir
*Judith Ward, writes ...*

On Saturday 9th November, several members of St Helen’s Junior Choir went to “Sing your heart out” - a singing day organised by the Royal School of Church Music in Sonning. Three of them would like to tell readers about the day.

**Rosey:** When we came into the church it was freezing! but we soon got warmed up by singing and a few exercises. We learnt lots of new songs and learnt how to read music. After an hour we all had lunch together - there were quite a few of us from Benson and we made friends with the other groups from Oxfordshire and Berkshire. To finish the day off we all got dressed up in our robes (some of us even got to wear frilly collars!) and we performed to our parents and congregation. It was a great day and everybody loved it.

**Anna:** I really enjoyed the singing day because we learnt some different songs, and it was interesting to hear what other choirs sounded like. The church in Sonning was bigger than our Church, and overall it was fun.

**Robert:** The three leaders (David, John, and a lady whose name we didn’t catch) were friendly, helpful, understanding - and patient. I was pleased I could wear my robe and it felt good doing a proper procession into the stalls. I particularly enjoyed singing descants and high notes!

All our singers did St Helen’s proud and performed very well in the Evensong at the end of the day. The Junior choir will be in action over Christmas at the Christmas Carol Service on 22nd December and at Christingle on 24th December. Come and hear them!

Messy Church
*The Revd John Burrell, writes ...*

About 50 people of all ages gathered in the Canons’ Room for Messy Church on Saturday afternoon 16th November. Christmas decorations such as snowmen, angels and stars were made and games were played. There was a short celebration in the Church where we met a grumpy inn-keeper who eventually became happy on Christmas Day, and sang a song. Returning to the Canons’ Room we had sandwiches, cakes, fruit, juice and tea! What a great afternoon!

Come and join us again for Messy Church on Saturday 1st March 2014 between 3pm - 5pm.

From the Registers
at St Helen’s Benson

**Baptism:**
3rd November  Freya Lucy Elsa Gregory

**Funeral:**
16th November  Anne Millar

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Charity begins at home but it shouldn’t stop there.

Last month we experienced a powerful storm. Trees at Rivermead and in other parts of Benson were blown down. They have now been cleared up and removed. We got off lightly compared to the south coast.

Not long afterwards, typhoon Haiyan ripped through the Philippines at speeds of up to 200mph. Whole communities were destroyed and many people lost their lives. The British public responded by donating over £30 million to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

This event happened during the same week as the Children in Need appeal. Over £31 million was donated for this country’s disadvantaged children.

We are a generous nation and I, for one, am proud of it.

The season of charity and goodwill has just begun. Advent Sunday on 1st December is marked by a Carol Service at St Helen’s Church at 6pm. Through the Advent season we prepare for the birth of the Christ child who comes like a light into a dark world. This was the greatest act of charity the world has ever witnessed.

Charity is an old fashioned word for love. It refers to the love of humankind in a Christian context – loving God and loving one’s neighbour. We help people in need, whether at home or abroad, out of love. Charities are ‘love responses’ to needs. Love must begin at home but, if it is truly there, home will not be able to contain it.

Last month a Government backed Money Advice Service published the results of a survey of 2000 people, which suggested that almost one in ten were still paying off debts from spending last Christmas and one in five feels obliged to buy his or her children this year’s ‘must have’ present.

Recently, the Archbishop of Canterbury said: “God gives his Son, Jesus Christ, to give us life and full life and abundant life. Giving at Christmas reflects that generosity of God. So be generous in a way that shows love and affection rather than trying to buy love and affection.”

“You can’t buy it, you can show it; and when you show it, it comes back at you with interest… Share love and affection with reasonable gifts that demonstrate you really care for someone. That makes for the best Christmas you could ever have.”

Which reminds me, it is not the expensive cards that I put in my “to keep” box but the home-made ones, usually by children. These cards bear so much of the giver and are profound acts of love.

You can’t buy love and affection, said Archbishop Welby, but you can show it. And that’s what we have been doing in response to typhoon Haiyan and Children in Need. Everyone giving a little bit out of charity can make a difference to many people’s lives.

Charity begins at home. Perhaps we need more charity in the home – showing our love and affection rather than trying to buy it and going into debt.

And we certainly need more charity in our country and the world. I haven’t even mentioned the millions of Syrians who have lost their homes in the fighting, the people of the Congo and so many other needy situations.

“Where love is, God is” is the title of a short story by Leo Tolstoy. It is about a Russian shoemaker called Martin Avdeitch. He suffered and became depressed. When he was looking for God he saw three people in need and helped them. That night he had a dream and these three people appeared. They said that when he helped them he was helping God. Martin realised that God had indeed visited him.

As we celebrate Christmas, God’s great gift of love to us in Jesus, may our charity begin at home and continue to flow outwards to the whole world. For where love is, God is and where God is, there is love.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.
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 837713
Curate: The Revd David Gifford tel: 01865 343309
Churchwardens:
Barbara Smart tel: 01491 837951
Rodney Davis tel: 01491 838494
email: randjdavis@btinternet.com

Sunday Services
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
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: Canon Ian Cohen
The Vicarage, 58 Brinkinfield Rd, Chalgrove
Email: ianghcohen@hotmail.com
Churchwardens: Dr. Marian Shaw - 01865 890915
Salli Pelling 01865 890970

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

Wallingford Methodist Church
St Leonards Square, Wallingford
Minister: Rev Katherine Pickering
Tel: 01235 813242
Email: katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk
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 Katherine for details

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

Sunday Services at 10.30am & 7.00pm
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday each month
First a follow-up on last month’s report about tree felling on the corner of St Helen’s Avenue and Church Road. The subsequent storm that hit us at the end of October resulted in the poplar tree that was left standing shedding a large branch that fell across the cycle path. So, it seems that the county council were justified in taking preventive measures in relation to the trees that they did take down. However, it was reported that the action was taken partly in response to complaints from a mobile phone company that the tree were interfering with their signal. It seems a shame if tweets on a smartphone will be allowed to take precedence over the long-established tweets of blackbirds, thrushes and the like.

BEST members were treated to a very enjoyable and informative talk in November about Max Vine’s “hobby” as a beekeeper and honey producer. He provided fascinating insights into the lifestyle and habits of bees – the highly productive queens, the fatally fertile drones and the aptly named workers. The latter, in their tens of thousands, fly over 50,000 miles between them in order to produce a pot of honey. They have a highly sophisticated system of communication in the hive, including the “waggle dance”, to let their worker colleagues know where and how far away are the sources of pollen. The illustrated talk was packed with facts such as these and everyone came away a lot wiser – and, I suspect slightly in awe – as far as honey bees are concerned.

In the last few years BEST has had a series of first class speakers on a variety of topics relating to small creatures, such as moths, ladybirds, grasshoppers and bees. The common theme that runs through these talks is how much we learn from these tiny beings about the changes to our environment, and particularly climate change. They really are the best indicators of what is happening around us, brought about either through natural processes or by human actions and interventions.

BEST will end its year with the AGM on December 10 at 7.30 pm in the parish hall lounge. This will be followed by the traditional Christmas social. The committee met recently to plan next year’s programme of speakers and events. We are always glad to hear of suggestions for topics and speakers that would interest members and potential members, or of places that BEST might visit. Please get in touch with one of us below if you have any ideas. It would be good to see some more new faces in 2014. (No disrespect to the familiar ones!)

Finally - and sadly - a tribute (one of many, I am sure) to Anne Millar. Dr Anne was actively involved in BEST from its earliest days and provided great knowledge, enthusiasm and common sense which she so readily shared. Her knowledge of the ecology of our environment was enormous and she never lost her appetite for expanding that knowledge. She is truly one of life’s irreplaceable characters and one who will be greatly missed by all of us who were privileged to know her.

Tom Stevenson (Chairman) 01491 836888; email: thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com
Keith Tibbs (Secretary) 01491 838689; email: keith.tibbs4@ntlworld.com
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RAF Benson News

Nikki Hamilton, writes ...

HONOURING LOCAL HEROES

Whilst 11 November is the key date for remembering our war heroes, the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) at RAF Benson have been working hard to ensure that Oxford’s war heroes are remembered all the time. Sergeant Steve Brown, Lance Corporal Dean Millward and Private Pat Lockyer of the MPGS at RAF Benson have recently taken on the heart-warming project of maintaining the forgotten war graves of the Onsey Lane Cemetery in Oxford. They will also be assisted by colleagues Corporal Pat Bone and Lance Corporal Hem Thapa.

The project started last year as Steve was passing by the cemetery on a train. Through the window he noticed the Portland stone and instantly recognised that they were war graves, but they appeared to be forgotten and quite overgrown. On his next visit, Steve visited the cemetery to inspect the graves and confirm his initial thoughts. From then on there was a lot of background work to be undertaken; confirming the graves were registered with the War Graves Commission and then working closely with Mr Crompton to confirm there was no family interest registered. The team then set to work under the guidance of the War Graves Commission.

Collecting bulbs from Nims Plant Nursery near to RAF Benson, the team then visited Wickes on Botley Road to buy the necessary materials to renovate the graves. The team approached the customer services manager at Wickes to ask if there was any chance of a discount. Upon hearing of their intended project, they were told that a discount was not an option but they would donate the materials for free!

The team cleared the weeds and overgrown areas around the final resting places of all 27 Armed Forces heroes and prepared each headstone to receive the dwarf daffodils, snowdrops and white stone chippings.

Steve explained, "The graves were scattered across the cemetery and we wanted to make sure that they were all uniform. We hope that the work we’ve managed to do gives a small amount of respect to the boys who gave their lives for us.”

Remembrance Day Parade

Anne Fowler, writes ...

What a pleasure it was to attend the Benson 2013 Remembrance Day Parade on the 10th of November. A sad and moving experience, but one which saw most of the village come out to pay their respects to the fallen heroes of various conflicts.

I am sure the organisers worked very hard to make the event run so smoothly and exactly on time. On behalf of the village, I would like to thank them again for putting on such a great event. There is a selection of photos on the www.bensonbulletin.com website under ‘Local Events’, and Tom Stevenson also has some photos at http://www.flickr.com/photos/62981490@N04/sets
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EWELME VILLAGE HALL
We have had a busy start to Term 2 with all parents visiting to share their children’s learning.
We also have an International Week coming up, which will enable children to learn about other countries and their traditions, culminating in an International Market where children can share a display for each country studied. These include England, China, USA, Italy, India, Germany and Japan.
On 15th November the children and staff will be wearing their pyjamas to school, to help support Children In Need. Let’s hope it is a warm day! Continuing our efforts to think of those children who are less fortunate, families have the option to create a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.
The children are also looking forward to the many Christmas activities including the traditional nativity presentation and a carol service in St Helen’s Church.

Looking Back to Term 1
Our Years 5 and 6 had residential visits at the beginning of the academic year. Please read on to learn pupil’s perspective.

Sycamore Class Residential at PGL Marchant’s Hill, Surrey by Ava Gardner

On the 16th October Sycamore class were lucky enough to get the opportunity to go to PGL Marchant’s Hill. Everyone agreed that it was one of the best things they have ever done.
Some of the things we did were a once in a lifetime experience. We had a pretty tight schedule – wake up at 7.00, have a shower, get dressed and have breakfast. We started activities at 9.30. We did abseiling first – it was really high – 10 metres to be exact! Then we did aeroball which got your socks dirty. After that we had lunch which was scrummy.
My favourite activity was the giant swing; we were strapped to a metal pole and we were swung 15 metres in the air! It was so fun. We also did the mud challenge course which was so horrible because mud and water were thrown at us! We finished off our activities and had our delicious Cajun chicken. In the evening we had wacky races. We did lots of kinds of wacky running which was really fun. Then it was hot chocolate and marshmallows before we had a well-earned rest. The next day we finished our activities and went home.
Some of us were worried about going to PGL, but we all changed our mind when we did the first activity. We all loved it!

I am delighted to tell you about two exciting pieces of news regarding the children’s sporting achievements at Benson School!
Following the success of our Girls Cricket Team last summer in winning the County title, two of our girls were invited to trials for the County U11 squad. After a hard day of bowling, batting and fielding, Ava Vaccari and Milly Parchment were successful in being selected for the Development Squad, and are very excited to be looking forward to the start of training in January! This is a fantastic achievement and testament to the enthusiasm and talent of the girls on the sports field!
Our cricketing success was just part of another very enjoyable and overall successful year of sport and competition at Benson. Much of our sporting activity falls under the umbrella of the national School Games programme, which encourages school sport at all levels for all children, both within our own school and against other schools. The School Games encourages maximum participation and diversity of sport, as well as encouraging all children to enjoy school sport, both curriculum and extra curricula. Last year, our sporting activity was of a sufficiently high level and quality to enable us to be awarded a Silver Kitemark from the School Games!
Of course, we now have the challenge of further developing school sport towards achieving Gold Standard this year.
Term 2 sees the launch of our Commonwealth Games 2014 Benson to Glasgow Triathlon! Our challenge is to row, cycle and run enough miles collectively to get from Benson to Glasgow!
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The Flame Roars On! (Cont.)
Tania Hadfield (PE CoOrdinator), writes...

Glasgow, 380 miles! We are using static bikes and a rowing machine, which were donated to the school in 2012 for our memorable Olympic Week. We will then utilise the miles run for SPORT RELIEF next March when the whole school, including staff, will run the mile on the school field.

I would like to extend an open invitation to anyone in the village who would like to take part and help us get to Glasgow, to contact the school office to come in and cycle or row a mile (or more!)(01491 202502).

I can confidently say that Benson School is not only keeping its promise to keep the Olympic Flame alive but is on the right road to fanning the flames for the future of sport for our children.

Benson Community Pre-School
Bridget James, writes...

With the festive season almost underway, I hope everyone will excuse the plugging of one of Benson’s not-to-be-missed Christmas calendar favourites - the Benson Pre-school Christmas Cake Stall! This will be held on Saturday 7th December at Bob's Corner from 9am. Do please pop along to savour some wonderful home baked delights and keep the stall helpers going on a no doubt chilly morning. It’s also not too late to get in touch if you would like to bake. Anyone is welcome to do so regardless of whether they have smalls in tow. We have had kind village residents offer on previous occasions, for the love of the task. Great British Bake Off anyone?

It’s been a busy term with Sara and the team working hard on the current topic of Celebration. Creative treats and crafts have involved everyone to the full. The children have had a fascinating time, to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali, everyone sampled the taste bud tingling delights of Indian cuisine. Splatter prints were made to launch fireworks into space from the playground along with spaghetti fireworks pictures to mark Bonfire Night. For Children in Need, children LOVED the opportunity to attend pre-school in their pyjamas, “I can just get up and go Mummy!”. Whilst such parents may have enjoyed an extra 5 minutes avoiding the ‘will you PLEASE help me get you ready for pre-school’ joy, the children also had a wonderful time decorating Pudsey cakes during the day. Since baking exploits were so much enjoyed, we also plan to make shortbread for St. Andrews day. Finally, to ensure the date didn’t go unnoticed, vegetable poppies were created to mark Remembrance Day. How you do that, only Sara knows!

Of course, amongst this age group, huge excitement around Christmas looms. To kick this off, the children have all taken home a Christmas star to decorate and return. These will be pulled together and hung as bunting around the Youth Hall with prizes for the best creations awarded. Other glittering masterpieces, Christmas crafts, cards and calendars will also soon be a plenty to festoon local homes come the holidays. Our Christmas Party will take place on Thursday 19th December, with an accomplished entertainer adding to the fun this year. And if that wasn’t enough to catapult everyone towards hanging up their stockings, a Christmas sing song with parents and carers will be held around the pre-school Christmas tree during the last week of term. We have also enjoyed a visit from Tempest photography who have taken some fabulous snaps of the children in time for those grandparent stocking fillers. For those lying in wait, our canvas shopping bags are just about good to go….

And so, that’s it for this year, over already. We would like to wish all readers of the BB, all staff and our many parents/carers (also amazing volunteer helpers), a very happy Christmas. Enjoy yourselves. Be merry!

A date for your diary
BENSON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE
Wed 4th December 5pm - 7.30pm
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Air Cadets News From 966

Vivien Gardener, writes...

Each year cadets and staff from across Thames Valley wing gather at Wing HQ to take part in the various competitions that make up the Wing Activities Day. With an early start for many squadrons cadets arrive ready to compete in a range of events show casing the skills they have learnt whilst being in the Air Training Corps. The event shows a high level of standards across all disciplines and this year was no exception across all the entries and levels of participation by the cadets.

With over 200 cadets at WAD 2013 squadrons took part in a range of events including: Aircraft Recognition, Aviation Art, Drill, Media Skills, Aero modelling, Photography, Public speaking and website entries. These events match the Regional Activities Day and allow the wing to select a team to represent Thames Valley Wing at the next level. Additional competitions on the day also included First Aid, Super Snooker, Archery, Map Making and Flight of Fancy with these also providing cadets the opportunity to show their knowledge and skills.

If you want to find out more please see the website http://www.aircadets.tv/ 966 Squadrons’ next intake will be Tuesday 21st January 2014, look at our website for more details.

What We Take for Granted These Days

Peter Clarke, writes...

All kinds of people seem to contact me with all kinds of interesting bits of paper, photos and anecdotes. I received a letter from an old friend, Mr. Alan Hewett, who lives near Norwich, and is a regular recipient of BB. Alan’s childhood in the twenties and thirties was in a house located between the old White Hart Inn, and what was then Bertie West’s farmhouse in Castle Square. There is a completely new house there these days. Alan later moved up to Port Hill. He sent me a number of anecdotes, three of which I include here.

“Mains electricity, generated at Preston Crowmarsh mill, arrived in the village by the late ‘20s. It was expensive. For ten shillings and sixpence (53p!) the Electricity Company wired up our house with three lamps and one 5 amp 2-pin socket in our living room. I know a lot of our neighbours waited until after the Second World War, continuing to use paraffin lamps for lighting, and cook on a coal-fuelled range.

The Benson Post Office had to share a half day closure with Ewelme. The reason given was that a Post Office had to be open for folk to walk to. During the war time much communication was by telegram. As Benson was only a Post Office, whilst Ewelme was a grocers shop as well, then Benson had to close on a Tuesday. Benson Post Office sold daily newspapers, but the licence for Sunday newspapers was held by a lady in Wallingford, so she controlled all the sales in the district for that day.

Toilet emptying was usually with a bucket on to the house garden. This accounts for all the old houses having large gardens. In the cottage in Benson where I lived it was slightly different. The toilet was in a shed at the bottom of the garden sited above a large pit. The liquids drained away in to the sub-soil, but the solids remained. Father had a plot of land opposite, and once a year he dug a big hole – in the autumn - and in the night, once the adjacent pubs were closed, he crossed the road and tipped in the solids. He then took a newspaper, lighted it, and threw it in the toilet, putting the seat down. This got rid of the toilet paper, which of course was no more than newspapers cut into strips, threaded on string, hanging on a nail by the toilet. He wore his oldest clothes. When finished, off he went to the Thames with a bar of Lifeboat soap, and back into clean clothes that Mum had got ready for him.”

Life is much easier for us nowadays! Sewerage did not come to the village until the mid-Fifties, and who bothers to think about switching all the electricity we want on, 24 hours a day. Perhaps only the postal services are not much improved. Oh, and do those lovely cowslips in the garden of Alan’s old house have anything to do with his last paragraph?!”
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During October we were saddened to hear of the loss of another member. Anne Millar was a Society life member and has been a great support to us all in many ways. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

At our October meeting members and friends heard writer and columnist, Richard Smith, guide us through a history of mischief and mayhem with his talk ‘Oxford Eccentricity – a Guide to Oddball Oxford’. This included stories about Oxford student pranks, the explorer who was expelled on his second day for duelling and official advice on ‘3 ways to tell if an Oxford woman is a prostitute’.

We did not meet in November so we now look forward to our last meeting of the year on 6th December. At this meeting we will be joined by the RAF Benson Military Wives Choir and there will be a festive feel with a Christmas raffle and a glass of mulled wine. As usual, supper and drinks will be available to purchase and visitors will be welcome (£4 entry fee). Details are available on our website at www.bensington-society.com.

Prior to this, the Society will have an information stand at the Benson Street Fair on 4th December where we would welcome old friends and potential new members. The Bensington Society Books will be available to purchase at £10 per book or at the seasonal offer of £20 for any three plus the ever popular War memorial Book at £5. Excellent Christmas presents!

During December members should receive the Society’s Annual Report and notice of our Annual General Meeting which will take place on January 31st. Details of the 2014 programme of talks and outings are being finalised and will shortly appear on the website and notice board. Finally, on behalf of the Committee, can I please wish all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas and pass on best wishes for the coming New Year.

Sue Brown (Secretary) 01491 837885

Bensington Society

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Sue Brown (Secretary) 01491 837885

Benson Evergreens

There was a full house for the meeting held on 13th November, when the speaker was Carole Banks who came to talk to us about the Blue Cross Animal Sanctuary. This charity was set up in 1897 and its work is helping abandoned, unwanted, sick or injured animals. There are 4 veterinary hospitals and 12 re-homing centres around the country.

Carole gave a very interesting and moving talk about all that goes on at these centres and engendered some searching questions, some answered by way of a member’s mobile phone! Everyone was given a lapel badge supporting the Blue Cross and the proceeds of the afternoon raffle were given as a donation to the charity.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas party on 11th December when we look forward to seeing all members who accepted the invitation to attend. I’m sure your committee will make it the usual very enjoyable occasion. If you are unable to be with us, we send you our Very Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

We still have a very loyal group of people who come to Thursday morning coffee at The Millstream but it would be good to see some new faces, just drop in between 9.45 and 11am. We still only charge 50p for tea or coffee and biscuits, and the profit goes to the club funds. We are very grateful to Julia, Ros and Margaret who are our main helpers with this very much appreciated service to the club.

Continued overleaf....
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Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Alice Jones-Evans

Non-club members are very welcome to come for coffee – as are new members at our monthly meetings.
All enquiries to Julia Minall on 838 402.
Sylvia Baker

**Roke & Benson Brass Band**

With the festive season fast approaching I thought I would tell you about some of the exciting things the band has planned for Christmas 2013.

**Christmas Spectacular, Christ Church Cathedral Friday 6th December 7.30pm**

This is an extremely prestigious event with all proceeds going to MacMillan Cancer Support and we are incredibly honoured to be asked to take part. We will be playing as the audience arrives and will accompany the organist and the choir during the service itself. With readings from TV personalities, and music lead by James Burton and the world renowned choir Schola Cantorum, Oxford University’s premier chamber choir. For further information and details of how to book please see [http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/)

**Christmas Concert, Benson Parish Hall Saturday 14th December 7.00pm**

I can’t believe almost a year has passed since our last concert. This year we are off to the movies! Joining us will be our Junior Band, Benson School Choir and Gay & Alan Cooper - Handbell ringers and semi-finalists of Britain’s Got Talent 2011. It’s going to be a great evening and we hope you will be able to join us. Tickets, priced at £3.75, will be on sale in Derry’s Den from the beginning of December.

**Midsummer Murders**

The band was approached by the Midsummer Murders production team and asked to provide a group of players to take part in filming for this year’s Christmas episode. So on a very hot day at the end of June we were driven to a location where we were filmed playing Christmas carols! It was a very strange but thoroughly enjoyable experience. We don’t know exactly when the Christmas episode will be screened or even if the band will be included, but please keep your eyes and ears open for us!

As well as the above we will be playing at other events including some of the local pubs. You may be interested to know that most of the money we collect and raise at Christmas goes to three local charities: MS Therapy Centre on Milton Park, Seesaw and The Haematology Unit at The Churchill Hospital. Over the years we have raised an amazing £7,700 for these three worthy causes.

For further details on the above events and all our latest news please refer to our website: [www.rokeandbensonbrassband.org](http://www.rokeandbensonbrassband.org) or on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Roke-Benson-Brass-Band/261071677242323](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Roke-Benson-Brass-Band/261071677242323).

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the band this year and to wish you all a very happy Christmas!

**Natalie Wyatt (Bandmaster)**

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**Benson WI**

Sandra welcomed 23 members and 4 visitors at our October meeting held at Benson Parish Hall. The previous month’s minutes were read and signed and News and Views magazine discussed with trips to book that evening. Sandra reported that a substantial amount of money had been collected in memory of Jill Spence and members were asked for ideas for a fitting memorial for a much missed friend. Ideas will be put forward at next month’s meeting. Delia has a trip planned to Aston Pottery on 14th November and asked if anyone was interested to put their names on the list. Elizabeth then reported a healthy bank balance. The Disabled Club lunch, which the W.I. hosted on 17th October, was a happy occasion with our guests sitting down to a meal of chicken casserole with fresh fruit salad to follow. Our team of helpers worked hard to ensure a successful time was had by all. Three members attended the W.I. Group meeting at Clifton Hampden on the evening of the 17th October, Benson’s job this year being the running of the OFWI sales table. The speaker was Simeon Courtie who related to us, with much humour, his family’s adventures busking...
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Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Alice Jones-Evans

Beatles music for charity from Strawberry Fields, Liverpool to Strawberry Fields, New York. Back to the October meeting when our speaker, Judith Dewey, who is the curator of the Wallingford Museum, gave an interesting and informative talk on the history of Wallingford. Judy’s enthusiasm and care for detail brought Wallingford’s ancient history alive with snippets such as lying underneath the Waitrose Supermarket is a church and burial ground. As well as coins, old cooking pots came to light, one in particular named the “soggy bottom pot” shaped so as to nestle into a fire! It was also interesting to discover that KP Stationers was once ‘The Feathers Hotel’. Sandra gave a vote of thanks and then refreshments were served. “Cats Chorus” is booked for the meeting on December 18th and Tony King is our January speaker for January 15th, his topic being “Shopping with the Victorians”.

Benson W.I. meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the parish Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

Ring Mary on 01491 838748 for more details.

Wallingford U3A

Because the first Wednesday in January 2014 happens to be New Year’s Day, Wallingford U3A’s monthly meeting will be held on 8th January. We meet at 2pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome. Our January Speaker, Ian Black, will speak on “Caribbean History and Culture from a Cruise Ship”. Should be a welcome distraction from January cold. At our November meeting Tony King gave us a fascinating talk on “The History of London’s Underground Railway”.

This celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of the World’s first Urban Underground Railway. Tony had a remarkable number of rare and very interesting photographs and illustrations, which he displayed to a full and enthusiastic house. For more information about us visit googlesites/wallingfordu3a.co.uk, or phone Hermione 01865 858024, or try 01865 340850.

Deirdre Wilson

Wallingford Photographic Club

As part of the December programme, two members of Wallingford photographic club will give a presentation on ‘Winter’. Gordon and Gaynor Roberts CPAGB (both) are well known both in our club and externally as being experts at photographing winter snow scenes. They will be sharing some of their dramatic images and providing tips on how to get that perfect exposure for those tricky conditions.

So, get ready for winter photography and join us on December 12th at Crowmarsh pavilion, 8pm start. For further information please visit www.wallingford-photographic-club.org.uk or email wallingfordphotoclub@gmail.com

Pam Sandhu-Dickens

Wallingford Gardening Club

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will talk about their own gardening experiences. Wine and mince pies will follow a very brief AGM. The talk will be held in Wallingford Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th December. Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby
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**About Benson Bulletin**

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

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**BB’s Deadlines**

**Copy:** 12th of month previous

**Advertising:** 12th of month previous

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The Benson Bulletin

c/o Benson Parish Hall

Sunnyside

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**BBNA Committee Members:-**

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Treasurer Kyri Kyriakoudis 839810

Secretary Patricia Baylis 826289

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Clubs’ Sec Alice Jones-Evans 07773323090

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Distribution Ivor Allen 839003

Editor Anne Fowler 201734

Asst Editor Tom Stevenson 836888

John Burrell 832008
December
1-8 Christmas Market Oxford Castle Quarter
1 Cholsey & Wallingford Railway - Forces Families Weekend - half price tickets with ID
3 Ramblers. Meet 10am Ewelme Cow Common CP 6.5 miles Info 01491 835080
4 Benson Christmas Street Fayre, Benson High Street 5.00 – 7.30pm
5 Benson Garden Club, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm Christmas Quiz and refreshments
6 Bensington Society Christmas Evening Benson Parish Hall 7:30pm
6 Roke & Benson Brass Band Christmas Spectacular, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford 7.30pm
7 Benson Community Pre-School Christmas Cake Sale Bob’s Corner, High Street from 9.00am
7 Christmas Concert, St. Mary’s Church, Wild Parish Church Choir with Harp & Piano 7.30pm
10 Benson Volunteer Helpline AGM Millstream Day Centre 7.30pm All welcome
10 BEST AGM 7.30pm Benson PHall lounge followed by members’ Christmas social. 01491 838689
11 Henley Philatelic Soc Church, Bix 7.45pm ‘The letter ‘C’ – 9 pages’ www.henleyphilatelic.co.uk
11 Benson Evergreens meeting Benson Parish Hall 2.30pm
12 Ewelme Elm Club - Christmas party and school entertainment at 2pm Village Hall, Ewelme
12 Benson Parish Council meeting, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm
12 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Checkendon Church. 6.5 miles Info 01491 835387
13 TWHAS: Archaeological investigations, Paul Smith,Wfd Town Hall 7.45pm £3 www.twhas.org.uk
14 Roke & Benson Brass Band Christmas Concert, Benson Parish Hall 7.00pm
15 RAF Benson Military Wives Choir, The Crown Inn 4.00pm charity concert Info: Kerry 07876680706
17 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Nuffield Church. 7 miles Info 01491 838689 or 07966 756770
18 Benson WI ‘Chats Chorus” Hugh Granger, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm
19 Future of local NHS services event held in Wallingford 9am-1pm Booking: 01865 334 638
24 Benson Green bin collection day as normal
29 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Wfd, Queens Ave Vet’s CP 7.5 miles Info 01491 834370 or 07814 165940

January
1 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Ewelme Rec gr’d car park, 9 miles Info 01491 838707
2 Benson Grey bin collection day moved from Tue 31Dec13
7 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Benson Church Rd/St Helens junc. 7 miles Info 01491 838689 or 079786 302136
8 Benson Green bin collection day moved from Tue 07Jan14 (no green waste collection)
9 Ewelme Elm Club - History talk on Ewelme. Lifts Trisha Scott (834734)
9 Benson Garden Club, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm , Creating Wild Flower meadows at BBOWT
10 TWHAS: Children & WWII, Liz Woolley, Wfd Town Hall 7.45pm £3 www.twhas.org.uk
11 Mosaic Workshop Ewelme Wress Centre 10:30am-4:30pm £80 incl. materials Tel: 01491 642182
14 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Nettlebed, The Old Kihn. 7 miles Info 10491 838707
15 Benson WI ‘Shopping with the Victorians’ Tony King, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm
21 Ramblers. Meet 10.30 am Ardington, High St CP. 5 miles Info 01491 835080
21 966 Squadron Air Cadets intake Info: http://www.aircadets.tv/
22 Henley Philatelic Soc Church Bix 7.45pm ‘Stamp Printing Methods’ www.henleyphilatelic.co.uk
28 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Woodcote Village Hall. 5 miles Info 01491 836563
31 Bensington Society AGM & Talk ‘Trinity House’ Benson Parish Hall 7:30pm

February
6 Benson Garden Club, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm Gardening with Flair, John Negus
13 Ewelme Elm Club - Quiz. Lifts Trisha Scott (834734)

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