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Editor’s Column
Anne Fowler writes...

Happy New Year (a bit late I know), and welcome back to the first issue of the BB in 2014.
The first thing I have to do is apologise to the Benson Garden Club for accidently omitting their December article. I don’t know how I managed to miss it, I had it on my list, but there you are, sometimes things don’t always go to plan. Anyway this month I have included their December, January and February articles, so hopefully you won’t have missed anything.
Please make time to go along to the Mill Stream Day Centre book sale on Saturday 15th February 10.00am – 3.30pm, there will be many, many books, games, puzzles and DVDs for sale, not forgetting the excellent light lunches and scone/cream teas (I speak from experience).
Another great Benson institution is looking for some help. The Benson Volunteer Helpline which for many people has been a lifeline, is hoping to gain some new drivers and office helpers. Please have a look at Elizabeth’s article on page 4, and if you can help, please do.
We are also having the BB AGM on the 18th February in Benson Parish Hall lounge at 8.00pm. If you would like to come along, you will be very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Friday 9-12.30pm 2-5pm
Saturday 9.30-12.30pm

Cover photograph ‘Catching Tiddlers’ at the Thames near Benson c.1940 by kind permission of the Benson Archive.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
The floods here have been bad news for all of us that live near the river. However, a few days go (whilst at the kitchen sink), much to my surprise, I spotted an otter ducking and diving in the river and being swept along by the current. It appeared to be enjoying itself but I don’t know how it would have fared if it went over the weir. Did anyone else see it?
Jeanne Davis

Dear Editor,
I would like to draw your readers attention to a free meeting in Benson about Dementia Friendly Communities.
This is a new project which is looking to raise awareness about dementia in communities and aims to get people to think about what support they could provide to their neighbours. Dementia friendly communities are places that people can visit and feel comfortable and less embarrassed by their memory problems. It is a place where social isolation is reduced and people can live well in the community. This is a project for all members of the community and not only those that are currently directly affected by dementia.
The project is funded by the NHS South Dementia Challenge Fund and brings together a range of organisations that seek to support people to live well with dementia in their own communities.
The aim of the meeting is to find a group of people that are interested in learning about dementia.
After this first meeting they will be invited to attend another 2 free sessions. The group would then be helped to plan practical ways to support people in the community that are affected either directly or indirectly by dementia / memory loss.
The meeting starts at 10am on Fri 28 Feb at 10am in the Lounge room of Benson Parish Hall.
Thanks in advance for your help and support.
Anton Nath
Community Development Worker

Dear Editor,
Those animal lovers amongst you may have noticed that we have a strong Greyhound/ Lurcher presence in Benson. Both breeds of dog are wonderful, caring animals, easy to care for, calm and not in need of masses of exercise!
There are many great Greyhound and Lurcher rescue homes in the UK. As well as being able to find both breeds at the usual animal rescues places such as the Retired Greyhound Trust, Stadhampton rescue and The Dogs Trust, I also support a Greyhound/Lurcher rescue centre in Spain, www.Scoobymedina.org
It is not widely known but this breed of animal can suffer terrible treatment in Spain. They are used during the Hare coursing season then abandoned at the end. The lucky dogs are sent to Scooby to be rescued but those unlucky dogs will suffer a cruel and heartless end at the hands of their ‘owners’. This breed of dog is considered second class in Spain and are rarely re-homed within country. Instead, the rescue centre relies on re-homing in Germany, Benelux and the UK. If you are interested in learning more about this worthy cause or offering your support, please access the website for more information.
If you are looking to give a loving dog a much needed forever home, please also consider adoption. This is perfectly doable and the rescue centre (at a reasonable cost) will do all the pet passport and transportation work.
If you would like more information, please email info@scoobymedina.org
Sarah Lye

Bingo Night!
Every Tuesday in Benson Parish Hall
at 7.00pm - just come along!

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Have you recently retired? Are you interested in helping with an organisation that assists clients within the Benson, Roke, Berrick and Ewelme areas e.g. driving clients to and from hospitals, dentists or doctors, and if required to the shops to help with the clients shopping, this would be using your own car. The volunteer drivers are paid by the client a set fee to help with the petrol expenses. We also require assistance in the office which is in the Parish Hall, the office is open from 9am until 11am Monday to Friday.

**The Benson Volunteer Helpline urgently requires further help from the people of this area.** Our clients are very appreciative of all the help the volunteer helpline gives them. So please ring either Eileen 833664 or Elizabeth 838580 or the office 825992 for further details and information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Elizabeth Leppard**

---

**Millstream 400 Club Results**

The final draw of 2013 was held at the Day Centre on December 11th and the lucky winners were:

- £10 Lisa Walker
- £10 I & S Kirkwood
- £20 Miles Willett
- £20 Mrs D Hughes
- £30 Jenny Jordan
- £30 Michael Grear
- £50 Mr & Mrs Wyman
- £50 Miss I Taylor
- £100 Leila Verran

Tickets for 2014 will be on sale and being distributed by our collectors in February.

---

We look forward to your support and an increasing number of participants this year. **Rob Wadley** draw promoter on behalf of the Day Centre.

---

**Thank You**

**B.C.A. Bingo**

Sue Dotchin and Hilary Baker would like to express their thanks to the local businesses who contributed prizes to the raffle which raised £300.00 for the Thames and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Many Thanks, **Hilary Baker**

---

**Millstream Day Centre Book Sale**

*Ian Leppard, writes* ...

A Mammoth Book Sale is to be held on **Saturday February 15th at the Millstream Day Centre, Benson from 10am until 3.30pm.**

Light lunches and afternoon teas will be available plus teas and coffees. A large variety of books will be available including books for children. Plus Puzzles, DVDs and CDs. We are still fund raising for the centre.

If you require any further information please contact Ian Leppard (01491) 838580.

We are always looking for items to sell on behalf of the centre, bric a brac, books etc., etc.

We look forward to seeing you.

---

**WW1 Centenary Event**

*Cllr Jon Fowler, writes* ...

On **Saturday 20th September** an event will be held at Benson Parish Hall to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

Precise details are still being planned so if anyone has any ideas for the day, please contact me.

We would also be interested to hear from anyone who had relatives from Benson that fought in WW1, or anybody who has WW1 artefacts or memorabilia which they might be willing to lend to us to put on display.

Please contact me via email on: fowler_jon@hotmail.com
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SAVINGS or as I prefer to call them CUTS

The last time I wrote in the Bulletin I talked of the cuts to services forced on the County Council by Central Government. At that point it looked fairly certain that all but seven of the Children’s Centres would be closed. I am pleased to say that this will now not be the case, in the short term at least, but the savings will now have to be borne by other areas of the social services budget. I am on an Advisory Group that will advise Council about the future of the Centres.

The cuts equate to £60 million over four years on top of a previous £210 million that the Council is in the process of implementing. OCC has lost between a quarter and two thirds of its income and we are told by officers that extended and deep cuts are likely to continue for many years to come.

ROADS

Due to the cuts to budgets the amount of money available to spend on our roads will decrease. Council staff no longer talk of improving the network, but of managing its decline. Emphasis is being put on ensuring the safety of the roads rather than the cosmetic appearance of road surfaces. This means more patching of areas and less re-surfacing.

We can be grateful for the mild winter (so far) as it means that the road surfaces will take less of a battering than in the past two years. However, if you are aware of a roads issue near you, please report it via the “Fix My Street” site on the web or if you would prefer to use the ‘phone, ring 0845 310 11 11.

BENSON LIBRARY

It was a great pleasure to be invited to say a few words at the initial volunteers meeting and I was delighted to see so many people there. From my discussions with County staff I have picked up how pleased they are that the library network has been preserved due to the efforts of local people.

FREE MONEY!

I still have a small amount of my Councillor Community Budget remaining and will be happy to recommend grants to community groups. I have recently given grants to the Badminton Club, towards a mat, and for a dis hesher for the Millstream Day Centre. If you would like to apply for a grant, please contact me on 651333.

SURGERIES

I will be holding a surgery on Thursday 27th February in Benson Parish Hall, from 7pm to 8pm. If you have an issue relating to services provided by Oxfordshire County Council – education, roads, social services etc – you are welcome to come along for a chat. To be sure of an appointment, please call me on 01491 651333. I plan to hold surgeries on the 4th Thursday at 7pm for the rest of 2014.

Council Tax Set to Fall

At our Full Council meeting this month I expect Council to reduce Council Tax for the third year running in South Oxfordshire by 2.5 per cent when we set our budget for 2014/15. Already the fourteenth lowest district council tax in England, this should get us below tenth. We are constantly looking for ways to improve efficiency, cut waste and increase income. Our approach is simple and business like and like any business our customers are at the heart of what we do. This is good news for everyone living and working in South Oxfordshire.

We are not immune from spending pressures affecting local authorities however, there is too much money wasted in local government and others could do worse than learn from our example.

New Homes Bonus - A Great Start to the Year

The New Homes Bonus is a reward for delivering additional new homes. The allocation is based on the council tax of additional homes and those brought back into use with a premium for affordable homes, and is paid for six years. It ensures that those local authorities which promote and welcome growth can share in the economic benefits, and build the communities in which people want to live and work. Councils are free to spend the Bonus as they choose, including on frontline services and keeping council tax low. I have recently received notification from Kris

Continued overleaf....
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Hopkins MP Minister for Housing saying the New Homes Bonus provisional allocation for South Oxfordshire District Council will total £1,906,436. This includes an affordable homes premium of £57,400. This is very good news for everyone that lives and works here in South Oxfordshire.

**Community Investment Grant Fund**
The Community Investment Fund grant scheme started in 1998 and has approved £13 million of grants to nearly 300 community projects across the district. These projects vary from new swings in play areas to new community buildings. Generally the scheme supports projects that show they will enable new activities to take place that will benefit a wide proportion of the community. Applicants need to provide evidence of local need and support for the project usually through consultation with the local community.

If you have a project you think may be eligible for grant funding then please give our grants team leader a call. Jane Bolton 01491 823136

**Visit Midsomer**
Use Midsomer Murders to help develop your business. 2013 saw a sharp rise in visitors following in the footsteps of ITV's DCI Barnaby. Filmed across South Oxfordshire and viewed by millions - in the UK and over 200 countries worldwide - Midsomer Murders is fast becoming a visitor attraction in its own right. Tea rooms, Hotels, B&Bs, Pubs, Shops, Tour guides etc can all benefit from this. For more information and how we may be able to help please contact our Economic Development Team or visit www.visitmidsomer.com

**Football for People with Disabilities**
Regular football sessions specifically for people with disabilities are taking place in Wallingford. Anyone over the age of 16 who is disabled can attend weekly sessions on Fridays between 3-4 pm for £1.50p. Please call Richard Prunier Wallingford Town FC Chairman on 07767404670 or email wallingfordtownfc@live.co.uk

**Fast Broadband**
And finally... or should I say, at last! BT have recently been up-grading many of their cabinets around the district to accommodate BT Infinity. This means many rural homes and businesses across the district will now be able to get a much better and faster internet connection however, the up-grade is not automatic and I urge you to register with your provider, BT by phone or online at BT.com. This is excellent news, follows many years of campaigning and I hope as many of you as possible will benefit from this long awaited technology.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities.

**Precept**
The Parish Council has now set its budget (Precept) for the 2014/15 financial year. The precept is funded from your Council Tax bill and this year we have not increased the Parish Council element and are keeping the amount you pay the same as last year. In fact, this will be the third year in a row that the amount has remained the same.

**Post Office**
We’ve been informed by the Post Office staff that due to Whitechurch Bridge being closed and the subsequent longer journey times the P.O. is sometimes subject to a slight delay opening in the mornings. The bridge is apparently going to be closed until June. The staff have apologised if there is sometimes a slight delay and recommend that customers don’t arrive prior to the scheduled opening times.

**Trees**
Those of you with good memories may recall I wrote in the December BB about trees at the junction of Church Road and A4074 being felled by Oxfordshire County Council. I’m pleased to report they have now re-planted replacements.
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Dr Anne Millar  

_Peter Clarke, writes ..._

**Ecclesiastes 3 verses 1-8**

Both Peter Rose and Tom Stevenson have written admirably about Dr Anne Millar’s many legacies to Benson. Two months on I want to add two important postscripts, for as the Bible reminds us “There is a time for silence and a time to speak.”

In the early ‘Nineties I was recently retired from the Army and back in the village of my youth. Setting aside the old soldier’s adage (“neffer volunteer fur nuffin”!) I felt there were things to be done, and I volunteered to be the Bensington Society’s secretary.

The big difference from those childhood days in the ‘Forties was that the ever-busier A439 (now re-designated the A4074) had cut off the Thames from its village. A proper pedestrian crossing was essential for mums, pushchairs and the rest of us. In short, the village was being denied access to one of its main attractions. I wrote all about that in _A Century of Change_.

Dear old Hugh Cundal, our then County Councillor would have none of it (“Not necessary, and anyway far too expensive”). A quiet word to Anne Millar. “What an excellent idea” was her response followed by a cheque for £1000. The Bensington Society matched this, and more cash followed from the BCA, the Parish Council and others. Hugh changed his tune. The crossing became a reality.

* * *

A few years on and I was now the Society’s chairman. I was conscious that poor old Miss Ditmas had written an excellent history of the village in 1981, but in those pre-digital days publishing was financially impossible.

I asked Dr. Kate Tiller to remedy matters and she edited that fine _A Village Through its History_ – abbreviated today as the blue book. But how to find the money this time? Of course we raised a healthy list of Subscribers, but it was another quiet £1000 cheque from you know who that tipped the balance. The book sold well, and on the back of that _A Century of Change_ (the red book) was possible. Finally, there was now enough cash to give the Ditmas book the pride of place it so richly deserved.

As Dr. Anne, she poured out her no-nonsense compassion to the village. She poured out her carefully targeted philanthropy as Anne Miller. I feel a very wry grin over my shoulder as I write this. Indeed she can rest in peace!

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Richardson Shelter

George Levy, writes...

Benson Meteorological Observatory

Further to my recent short article on Observatory Close (Benson Bulletin, October 2013) I would like to share a photograph of a Richardson Shelter[1].

The photograph dates from 1924, and shows W H Dines (who owned the Benson Meteorological Observatory) and his assistant, B C Lewis, inside a Richardson shelter. The purpose of the shelter was as follows: A gun shot spheres vertically upwards and the wind speed was estimated by recording where they fell. Obviously most of the projectiles returned very close to the gun, and with a speed roughly equal to that with which they were fired. This meant that it was necessary to protect the shooters with a metal roofed shelter.

Acknowledgement
I would like to thank the National Meteorological Office Exeter for supplying the photograph.

References

Generation Games

Hamish Crichton, writes...

Generation Games is a fantastic initiative from Age UK Oxfordshire and partnered with the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. Its prime function is to get over 50 year olds more active and reaping the many benefits of exercise.

This service will create a personal programme of activities for you, provide support and help to ensure your safety. We also have a home based exercise DVD which is FREE to the over 50's in Oxfordshire and can also be viewed online; it is a fantastic exercise video that is suitable for everyone whatever your ability or fitness level. The DVD works in tandem with the Generation Games website; an excellent tool to create your ideal exercise and activity programme with information on over 1000 activities. We are looking for more activities and exercise classes located in the Benson area to be added to the Generation Games Website.

If you run an exercise class or organise activities where the emphasis is on physical exercise then we would love to hear from you.

We will add your activity details to our website for FREE and you can reap the benefits of increased awareness for your activities.
Contact us today and register your class details to the Generation Games website - www.generationgames.org.uk or email us at generationgames@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk Tel: 01235 849403

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So What’s it Worth?
David McGill, writes ...

Jonty Hearnden from TV’s Cash in the Attic will be at Benson Parish Hall on Saturday 15th February.
Why not come along and make up a table with some friends. The start time is 7:00pm, but doors will open at 6:30pm to allow you to get seated. Bring along an antique for Jonty to talk about (but please not jewellery, ceramics or glass).
Jonty will choose about 6 to 8 items from around the hall which he will describe and talk about. As the evening progresses every table will be asked to put a value on each item Jonty selects to be valued. At the end of the evening there will be a prize for the table whose Total Valuation is closest to Jonty’s expert view. Come and join in what will be a memorable evening……particularly if your table wins!
A ploughman’s supper is included in the ticket price of £10 per person and a bar will be open during the evening.
Tickets are available at Derry’s Den, Benson or by telephoning 01491 838494.
The event is organised by Benson PCC in aid of St Helen’s Church Funds.

Patient Access for children and young people
For children under 12, parents are welcome to register for Patient Access on behalf of their children. For those aged 12-16 the situation is different. These young people are approaching an age at which they could wish to consult a doctor or nurse without their parent’s knowledge. To ensure their confidentiality is maintained Patient Access logins created by parents previously will be disabled once young people reach the age of 12, so that parents can no longer see what appointments have been arranged and cannot see what drugs (particularly contraception) have been prescribed. Young people will be able to request Patient Access again after their 16th birthday, or after their 14th birthday if they have discussed this with a doctor first. Although this may be inconvenient for parents, we want to ensure that young people feel happy to seek advice with complete confidence about confidentiality, particularly around their sexual health and contraception.

Nuffield Place
Tina Avery, writes ...

Looking for a new challenge? Have you considered volunteering with the National Trust?
At Nuffield Place, the former home of Lord Nuffield, founder of Morris Motors and Britain’s biggest philanthropist, we have a great team of volunteers who assist in the house, garden, shop, visitor reception and the grounds. Volunteers come from all walks of life. For some their work with the National Trust is a complete departure from their previous occupations, others use existing skills. They all bring goodwill commitment and enthusiasm and alongside their work with the Trust many volunteers meet regularly for coffee mornings, outings and quiz nights.
We are now looking forward to our next season which starts 2nd April 2014. We are holding a VOLUNTEER OPEN DAY on 8th MARCH at 10am. Why not come along and find out more about it? Just turn up, no need to book! Nuffield Place is between Henley and Wallingford. You can find out more details at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nuffield-place/ or email nuffieldvolunteers@nationaltrust.org.uk

Millstream Surgery
Fran Butler (Practice Nurse), writes ...

Did you know you can book appointments and request repeat prescriptions online?
Many of our patients at Mill Stream Surgery have this online facility (called Patient Access, formerly EMIS Access) and we would like to encourage more of our patients to register for this. All you need to do is call in at the surgery and ask to register for Patient Access. You will need to bring some photo-id (photo driving licence or passport) to confirm your identity when doing so. As well as being able to book appointments and request repeat prescriptions, there is also a facility for you to be able to view your medical record online. Please tell the receptionist if you would like to be able to view your records as well, because there are some extra security steps to go through for this aspect.
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Tel: 01491 877205
Here is the latest neighbourhood update from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Rebekah Kent.

**Local Priorities**
The local priority for the Benson/Berinsfield neighbourhood is Burglary and Attempted Burglary. As part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team covering this area I aim to reduce this type of crime by promoting and encouraging crime prevention and patrolling areas regularly.

Unfortunately we have seen a slight increase in this type of crime but the team has been working with CID to identify offenders and prevent further incidents.

**Anti-Social behaviour (ASB)**
We have had a decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB) this month which is great news! However we have had reports of vehicles causing a nuisance in McDonald’s car park and Sunnyside, Benson, also young people gathering in the evening around Benson Primary School. High visibility patrols are being carried out in these areas to deter any further incidents. Please let us know if problems continue or new incidents of ASB arise.

**General Information Requests**
• On 2 December between 9am - 10am, caravan stolen from Sunnyside, Benson – caravan has since been found out of the force area.
• On 5 December between 8:30am – 5pm – property broken into on Blacklands Road, Benson.
• On 5 December between 4:45pm – 5:15pm – property broken into in Old London Road, Benson.

**Have Your Say Meetings in February**
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.

7th – Outside The Co-Op, Fane Drive, Berinsfield 11 – 11.30
11th – On Village Green, High Street, Culham 17.30 – 18.00
13th – Outside The Village Hall, Roke, 17.30 – 18.00
19th – Lay-by next to Library, A4074, Nuneham Courtenay 11 -11.30

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team for non-urgent matters you can call us on 101 or email WallingfordBerinsfieldCholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. For any urgent matters or to report a crime in progress please call 999.

**Wider Aspects of Benson Development**

Peter Clarke, writes ...

I wrote extensively on the subject in Benson – A Century of Change (pages 119 to 124). I hope therefore a look at the wider aspects might contribute to the debate on extra housing.

At the outset I will tie my flag to the “Keep Benson a village” campaign simply because it would spoil one of Benson’s most attractive features, namely the beautiful views out to the west and north of the village. If a major house building site is deemed essential, then the area between St Helen’s Avenue and the A4074 seems infinitely preferable. Best of all would be to meet the target of 125 houses in the coming years, by peppering them around a few remaining sites still available.

No. My aim here is simply to highlight an almost certain hidden agenda by the Highways Authority, namely to link up the A34 from the south, with the M40. A glance at any map demonstrates my point. In one stroke, Oxford, Didcot and Abingdon are by-passed, together with more local choke points, such as Watlington and indeed our own Castle Square. Benson would be circumnavigated from the Gurney’s roundabout, accommodated in any of West Waddy’s planning, and pass through the gap (so conveniently left over the years!) between Sunnyside and Hale farm.

Nice idea? Some might think so, but in so doing it would destroy in a stroke some of the most beautiful land west of the Chilterns. It would indeed be to the west of the area, what HS2 threatens to do to the north of the Chilterns.
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A colleague recently remarked, “You didn’t take any annual leave again over Christmas, is that because you’re a Quaker?” In my reply I spoke of Friend’s (Quakers) testimony against times and season, and explained how early Friends felt that they did not need a liturgical calendar to help them remember. A biblically literate colleague joined the conversation so I provided some scriptural basis, e.g.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night… (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, KJV).”

This testimony is held to varying degrees nowadays, and Friends are more likely to speak of the sacredness of the every-day. Aware that people can feel more zealous towards some areas of their religion’s practices than others, there is a more personal aspect to my enthusiasm for this testimony.

At seventeen years of age I found myself homeless and ended up in “bed-sit” land with others who had unfortunate social problems. This was a lonely experience felt most acutely over the Christmas period. I attended a local church for midnight mass, and when walking home I had the most painful sense of isolation and invisibility. I got out of this predicament which I was fearful of returning to, and secured a job as a nursing-assistant. When Sister did the Christmas rotas, I jumped at the chance to work every available shift going. Colleagues who wanted time off over this period were pleased to have someone to swap shifts with. Upon qualifying as a mental health nurse this Christmas working continued. Working on a psychiatric ward over this period was very different to a general ward. Eventually entering junior management I began working office hours, and anxiously sought other service over Christmas. I joined the local parish church which provided for the marginalized at this time, and this was a rewarding experience.

Friends in the seventeenth-centaury were aware of the dangers of loneliness and isolation. A member our Society had been committed to a “lunatic asylum” and was not allowed to be visited. Friends were not able to witness the neglect and mistreatment which eventually led to her death. This tragedy raised a concern among Friends which led to the establishment of the Retreat, a psychiatric hospital in York which pioneered moral treatment for the mentally ill. The eighteenth-century publication, “Description of the Retreat…” by Samuel Tuke, quotes Psalm 12:5,

“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, [saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.]”

The sighing of the needy cannot be heard if they are suffering that unseen social epidemic of isolation. We cannot be moved to arise, minister, and bring to safety those we are not mindful of. If Christians are to maintain a liturgical calendar, then may a celebratory offering be the renewal of our service to those on the margins.

St Helen’s Benson
The Revd John Burrell, writes...

Lent Lunches
Thursday 6th March 12.30pm
1st Lent Lunch in the Canons’ Room.
Soup and roll lunch. Showing DVD: The Imam and the Pastor – from vengeance and killing to healing and friendship in Nigeria. “Their is an inspiring story full of hope…A model for Muslim-Christian relations.” Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

7.30pm a screening of the same DVD in the Vicarage, including coffee and a discussion.

Sunday by Sunday
News & Diary Dates
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Church of England Parish of Benson</strong></th>
<th>Sunday Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>St Helen’s Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicar: The Revd John Burrell</td>
<td><strong>10.00am Parish Eucharist</strong> (Common Worship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel: 01491 832008</td>
<td>with Children’s Club and Creche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>email: <a href="mailto:giburrell@btinternet.com">giburrell@btinternet.com</a></td>
<td>3rd Sunday of the month: Orchestra and a service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Priest: The Revd Jean Travis</td>
<td>for all the Family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel: 01491 838713</td>
<td>Further details:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tel: 01865 343309 Churchwardens:</td>
<td>For Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Smart tel: 01491 837951</td>
<td>contact one of the clergy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Davis tel: 01491 838494</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>email: <a href="mailto:randjdavis@btinternet.com">randjdavis@btinternet.com</a></td>
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**Holy Mass**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Weekdays 9.30am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sat 6.30pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sun 9.30am (Berinsfield Church)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.00am Solemn Mass</td>
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**Confessions**

|                    | 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 |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Catholic Parish of St Birinus</strong></th>
<th><strong>Meeting for Worship</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester-on-Thames</td>
<td>Sunday Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priest: Fr. John Osman, MA., STL.,</td>
<td><strong>10.00am</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge House Presbytery</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Ministry at Christian Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bridge End, Dorchester-on-Thames</td>
<td>For all other activities see our website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: 01865 340417</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ridgeway-church.org.uk">www.ridgeway-church.org.uk</a> or telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01491 832718</td>
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**Sunday Services at 11.00am**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Sunday of Month - Family Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Sunday - Holy Communion (BCP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other Sundays - Family Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Baptisms &amp; Weddings to be arranged with the Vicar</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wallingford Quakers</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Services at 10.30am</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I3 Castle Street, Wallingford</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Ministry at Christian Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enquiries to Warden Tel: 01491 837835</td>
<td>For all other activities see our website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting for Worship**

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ridgeway Community Church</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Services</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ridgeway Christian Centre</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21b/22 St Mary’s Street, Wallingford</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Ministry at Christian Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gareth Lloyd-Jones (Senior Pastor)</td>
<td>For all other activities see our website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ridgeway-church.org.uk">www.ridgeway-church.org.uk</a> or telephone</td>
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<td>01491 832718</td>
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**Sunday Services at 10.30am & 6.30pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lunch on Tuesdays 12.30pm - 1.30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friendship Group alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Tots Time’ Wednesday 9.30am - 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Brigade Wednesday evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 - 12.00 noon</td>
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*All welcome, please contact Katherine for details*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Church of England Parish of Berrick Salome</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Services at 10.30am &amp; 7.00pm</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Helen’s Church</td>
<td>Holy Communion 3rd Sunday each month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicar: Canon Ian Cohen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vicarage, 58 Brinkinfield Rd, Chalgrove</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ianghcohen@hotmail.com">ianghcohen@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchwardens: Dr. Marian Shaw - 01865 890915</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salli Pelling 01865 890970</td>
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**Sunday Services at 10.30am**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wallingford Methodist Church</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Services at 10.30am &amp; 6.30pm</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Leonards Square, Wallingford</td>
<td>Lunch on Tuesdays 12.30pm - 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister: Rev Katherine Pickering</td>
<td>Friendship Group alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01235 813242</td>
<td>‘Tots Time’ Wednesday 9.30am - 11.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk">katherine.pickering@methodist.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Brigade Wednesday evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk">www.wallingfordmethodistchurch.org.uk</a></td>
<td>Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 - 12.00 noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All welcome, please contact Katherine for details*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wallingford Baptist Church</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sunday Services at 10.30am &amp; 7.00pm</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thames St, Wallingford</td>
<td>Holy Communion 3rd Sunday each month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister: Pastor Simon Hudson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01491 839904</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: pastorsimonwbcremail.com</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.wallingford.org.uk">www.wallingford.org.uk</a></td>
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</table>
Keith Tibbs, writes...

New year, new BEST programme and, no doubt, new issues for ecology and the environment – as well as some with which we are already all too familiar. Since the last BEST report in December, we have had the floods. Fortunately Benson, at the time of writing, seems to have largely escaped the damage and the misery that many people in various parts of the county have experienced. Despite our proximity to the Thames and the brook running through the village, the fields around us have acted as effective flood plains. I am reliably informed that the river reached its highest this January since 1947. Two years ago at this time, we were experiencing a drought!

BEST will be starting its programme on February 11 at 7.30pm in the Canons’ Room at St Helen’s Church. BEST member Richard Soulsby will be sharing his extensive knowledge of butterflies and their habits, including the answer to the frequently asked question “how long do butterflies live?” So, if you have ever wondered about this, or have other questions about butterflies, come along and find out.

The full programme for the year is yet to be finalised and speakers to be confirmed, but we intend to offer a varied programme of speakers, visits and events. These will include the regular moth trapping event – probably in June, a fungus foray at Nuneham arboretum and a visit to the BBOWT reserve at College Lake near Tring. By popular demand we will be holding a nature quiz at the April meeting. The Earth Trust, based near Wittenham Clumps is in the process of completing a “river of life” project alongside the river Thames between Little Wittenham and Shillingford. We are arranging a visit to find out more about this exciting wetland restoration project.

As a tribute to the late Anne Millar, we will be organising, in conjunction with the Ewelme Cress Beds education team, a “Family Day” in August, to be held annually. This will be based on an event first held last summer when children, accompanied by adults, get the opportunity to experience a whole range of ecologically-based activities at Ewelme Cress Beds Centre. It is hoped that this event will be a fitting and lasting tribute to the great contribution that Dr Anne made to the Cress Beds project, to BEST and to her interest in getting youngsters to experience, appreciate and learn about their environment. We are grateful to Dr Anne’s family for giving us their permission to link her name to this event.

Several nationally contentious issues have local implications, such as the culling (or not) of badgers and the development of fracking for oil and gas. Decisions will be made about the size and location of housing developments in Benson. These are all matters that will potentially affect our environment and the ecology of the local area – for good or ill. And one final thought – the landscape will change significantly! The cooling towers at Didcot are due for demolition this year. Will we miss them when they are gone?

If you are interested in joining BEST or want to know more about it, please get in touch with one of us listed below. New members, potential member and guests are always welcome at our meetings and visits.

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

Earth Trust

Kirsty Warren, writes ...

On the 13th of January a dog attacked and killed a sheep on Wittenham Clumps. Recently, there have been several incidents where sheep have been seriously injured after being mauled by dogs. The Earth Trust is requesting that all dog owners keep their dogs on a lead whilst walking in areas where sheep are grazing.

The grasslands are wildflower meadows that are managed traditionally by grazing with sheep. This grazing is essential to maintaining these beautiful areas. Earth Trust surveys have shown that where grassland management includes sheep grazing there is a greater biodiversity, with more species of plants and associated insects and other wildlife, compared to areas that have not been grazed. Please keep your dog on a lead in these areas.
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A Railway Sesquicentenary

Sherwin Smith, writes...

The countdown has started. One hundred and fifty years ago, in November 1863, the promoters presented the Wallingford and Watlington Railway Bill to Parliament for consideration in the 1864 session. The first step in the extended progress towards the opening, in July 1866, of the first stage of the W&W. The second stage should have bridged Thames north of the marina and passed through Benson station, located where Littleworth Road meets Oxford Road, on its way to Watlington. But the promoters ran out of money because, in May 1866, a major London bank, Overend Gurney, crashed, triggering the greatest financial crisis before 2008. The railway never came to Benson.

The great and the good of Wallingford started by thinking the impossible. In 1861, the plan was for a railway running from the GWR at Cholsey to join the Wycombe Railway extension, then nearing completion, at Princes Risborough. It would have gone through Wallingford, Benson, Watlington, and Chinnor. Wisely the grandees panicked. They changed their minds. In 1862 the next plan was for a short branch only as far as Wallingford. This was incorporated into a Bill submitted to Parliament in November. They changed their minds again and withdrew the Bill in February 1863 before it had been considered. In November they were back again with a new exciting Bill. The final version.

Benson’s experience of railways started with the opening, in 1840, of the Great Western Railway as far as Steventon, taking Oxford travellers to and from London at a pace no horse-drawn coach could match. The coaching industry was destroyed. The Benson Blue Book records that the coach traffic going through Benson, and stopping at the inns, declined from seven coaches a day in each direction to only three a week. As early as 1838, the Reading Mercury had predicted that the coming of railways “will be attended with the most ruinous consequences to the inhabitants of those villages and small towns on the great leading thoroughfares of the country”. This certainly happened in Benson. Within a decade the local Turnpike Trusts were struggling and main roads went unmaintained.

The GWR built Wallingford Road station about three miles south of the town where the narrow bridge carries the A329 over the railway. The proprietor of The Lamb and other Wallingford hoteliers had to run coaches to meet the trains. But, by 1861, a correspondent recorded, in the Mercury, that the turnpike was barely passable and “many people prefer going round through the village of Cholsey itself.” Something had to be done.

Wallingford Road Station circa 1860
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A Railway Sesquicentenary (Cont.)

Sherwin Smith, writes ...

In late January 1864, there was a public meeting in Wallingford, nominally to allow people of the area to say if they wanted this railway or any railway but it seems to have been intended to rubber-stamp the promoters’ plans and to attract more investment in the company. The meeting was chaired by the Mayor of Wallingford, Mr T E Field, senior partner in the Field and Hawkins department store, which started in 1808 as Field’s drapery in a single shop where Helen and Douglas House now stands, and eventually occupied the whole of the north side of the Square until 1980.

Mr Field lived in Benson, at Paddock House on Brook Street. Another local resident, Mr T B Greenwood, a successful farmer, of Mill House, Ewelme, spoke very strongly in support of the scheme for bringing the railway to Benson, recalling the damage done to Benson over 20 years earlier when the coach trade was virtually wiped out by the coming of the railway. He was equally strongly opposed to wasting money on extending the line beyond Benson. But his was the only briefly dissenting voice and he was persuaded to propose the resolution in favour of the whole scheme. It was passed unanimously.

The work got off to a flying start. Early in May the Engineer and his staff were seen in the fields between Cholsey and Wallingford setting out the line, eleven weeks before the Bill was passed into law. At that time, the promoters expected to complete the line as far as Wallingford before the end of 1864. But, when the GWR decided not to allow a junction at Cholsey, the W&W had to build its own line all the way to Wallingford Road station, including widening the 60 ft deep cutting. This was unexpectedly expensive and time-consuming, and delayed the opening until the morning of Monday 2 July 1866.

And on Saturday 2 July 2016, the Cholsey and Wallingford Railway will celebrate 150 years of the Wallingford and Watlington Railway, what there is of it. A sesquicentenary indeed.

Air Cadets News From 966

Vivien Gardener, writes...

Looking back over the last year there have been many changes with WO Barker moving on and a returning commanding officer. As well as all the usual activities of shooting, climbing, flying, drill, studying flight, rocketry and field craft the cadets have also had a Halloween party and went bowling in Oxford. Some of the cadets have completed their Duke of Edinburgh awards and have been presented with their Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates and badges. Awards were also presented to some of the older cadets as they completed their BTEC in public services. Future events they are looking forward to include the annual Dining Out Night and a ski trip to Bavaria over half term. So as you can see, it has something for everyone.

Some Cadets braved the weather and went to Windermere to do Adventure Training. In November if you went to the Remembrance Sunday Parade many of the Cadets marched along side other representatives of the community in Wallingford. 2014 is the 100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War and this will be marked no doubt.

The Cadets were in Waitrose over the Festive period packing bags, we greatly appreciate the money that was donated and it has gone towards funding activities and equipment for the Cadets.

24th January was the intake night at 7pm, so welcome to the new recruits. Next intake will be the first week in April. Look at the website www.966atc.org.uk and click the contact link and it will give you further details. Anyone can join, to be a Cadet you just need to be between 13 and 16 years old. Adult volunteers must be at least 20 years old. They meet on a Tuesday and Thursday night at headquarters on Thames Street next to the car park.

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Firstly let me say happy New Year and welcome back. Feels like only yesterday we were listening to renditions of jingle bells and twinkle twinkle little star! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year break.

On the subject of Christmas... Our Christmas cake stall fundraiser was a huge success with an outstanding amount donated which led to us raising £212.25 for the pre-school. So thank you to all those who were kind enough to make & donated cakes, and a huge thank you to all those purchasers. I was lucky enough to get my hands on the last few sausage (and caramelised onions) rolls...delicious! I hope you enjoyed yours as much as I did mine.

Fund raising didn’t stop there... We would also like to thank Belinda Eltham (Archie’s mum) who ran a tombola stall at the Christmas street fair. She kindly donated £58.65 to the preschool.

Back inside pre-school, our Christmas Star competition saw lots of glitter, paint & other sparkly bits...the creations looked wonderful and the winner was Oliver Tuach - well done!

Preschool is now in full flow and our topic this term is ‘Whatever the Weather’ - we have learnt about rain and next will be snow (which includes creating fake snow)! Over the following weeks we will be learning about the sun and wind before focusing on The Winter Olympics. We will also be exploring festivals/celebrations falling in this term; notably Chinese New Year and Valentine’s Day. As if that’s not enough to keep us busy, we are exploring the ranges of instruments, the music sounds they make and possibly creating our own instruments, as well as looking at the sounds that support phonics. I can’t wait to see what all the little ones create... maybe there will be a band in the making!

Looking ahead, we have our famous Easter Raffle looming which has always been strongly supported by local businesses who kindly donate fantastic prizes. We are also holding a cake stall for Mothers Day too with a proposed date of 29th March. Sausage roll anyone?

If you are interested in becoming a member of our friendly committee please get in touch. Email us on: admin@bensonpreschool.co.uk call us on: 01491 824042.

Bridge4Schools

Francis Glassborow, writes...

Joan Bennett is an active local Bridge player who initiated the Bridge4Schools program for the English Bridge Union in 2009. Initially this was based in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. It has since extended into Hertfordshire and Dorset. In recognition of all her hard work the EBU has awarded her the Tom Bradley Award for 2012 (awards seem to follow a timeline of their own).

Joan regularly plays at of Wallingford Bridge Club and has recruited over a dozen members to work voluntarily introducing the game into local primary schools. This has lead to choosing Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall as the location of a regular Sunday afternoon session of Bridge for young people. The session starts at 2.30 and is open to all young people of any standard.

Parents and others are welcome to come along, and if not already Bridge players, they will get an opportunity to learn to play. We intend that adult Bridge on Sunday afternoons will be primarily for fun.

Bridge (and its simplified introductory version called Mini-bridge) is an excellent game across the generations. The young learn many skills by playing Bridge such as co-operation and courtesy. Recent research shows that active thought helps delay the onset of senile dementia.

If you have children or grandchildren we would love to see you and them on Sunday afternoons. If your local primary school is not already providing Mini-bridge and Bridge, please encourage them to contact Joan to discover what the Bridge4Schools program can offer.

Email: promotion@oxfordshirebridge.co.uk
More details of bridge in schools can be found at http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools/
Information about the Wallingford Bridge Club can be found here www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford/
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The Bensington Society

A very Happy New Year to everybody. The Society’s Christmas meeting, which now seems a long time ago, was very well attended with well over 100 members and friends enjoying entertainment by the RAF Benson Military Wives Choir followed by a festive supper. An excellent glass of mulled wine was prepared by John Johnson and Barbara Verdon organised some fabulous prizes for our Christmas raffle. Thank you very much to you both. By the time of reading this, our first meeting (and AGM on 31st January) may have taken place. Hopefully a new and enthusiastic Committee will now be in place and we can look forward to our exciting Talks and Outings programme for 2014. Details of these may be found on our website: www.bensington-society.com. Peter Clarke (President), Paul Booker (Outings), Pete Eldridge (Talks) and Martyn Spence (Chairman) will have stepped down and we thank them all very much for their contributions to the Committee. Martyn will be seeking re-election to the Committee in a new role. Can I please take this opportunity to remind members that subscriptions are now due and thank you for your continued support. The next Society meeting will take place on 28th February and our speaker, Edward Dixon will give us an insight into the lives of women on the Home Front during the Great War 1914-1918. Our usual supper will be available to purchase and the bar will open for wine and soft drinks. Visitors are welcome as always – £4 entry. You can find details of this year’s programme on our website at www.bensington-society.com along with all Society news and information. The 2014 programme is also displayed in the Benson Library folder and on the notice board opposite the Benson Butchers. Our first outing for 2014 will take place on 2nd May with a visit to the home of George Washington at Sulgrave Manor. Cymon Snow, our speaker at our March meeting, will be talking to us about this subject. Please contact Denis DeBeger on 01491 202049 for further details.

Sue Brown - Secretary 01491 837885

Benson WI

A Christmas atmosphere greeted members on arrival at the December meeting with decorated tables and a gift for everyone. Despite the stormy evening there was a good attendance helped along by a glass of mulled wine and mince pies to banish the gloomy weather. Members were encouraged to buy raffle tickets for the Christmas Draw which was held towards the end of the evening. The trip to Salisbury market on the 4th December gave the opportunity for some retail therapy for us to enjoy with the stalls brightly decorated and welcoming shops and restaurants. Also we took the time for a look round the cathedral before heading for our coach. ‘Cats Chorus’ provided the evening’s entertainment who comprised of approx 15 male and female singers. They have been singing for 6 years and sing unaccompanied. They started the evening with songs from the musicals finishing with traditional carols inviting us to join in which we did with ‘gusto’! They were a lively group and clearly loved to sing. We all agreed it was a good night’s entertainment.

At the meeting on February 19th Kere Harvey will demonstrate the many ways of flower arrangement. On March 19th we will hold the Annual Meeting. Jennie and Lynn have been working hard on 2014’s speakers so there is an...
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Continued overleaf....

Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Alice Jones-Evans

excellent year’s entertainment to look forward to. Why not come along and see for yourself. Guests are most welcome. Ring Mary on 838748 for more details. Benson W.I. meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Benson Parish Hall commencing at 7.30 pm. A happy new year to our members and friends.

Benson Garden Club

Our November meeting started on a sad note when Penny, our Chairman, announced the death of our founder member Dr Anne Millar. Dr. Anne as she was known to many of us began the Garden Club in 1995 and was the first Chairman and then a lifelong President. She continued to come to meetings when she could and will be sadly missed by us. We moved on to hear our popular speaker Andy Mc Indoe from Hilliers Nurseries in the ‘Deep South’ as he refers to it. He jokingly considers us to be in the cold north by comparison, so it was appropriate that he was showing us the gardens there in the winter and yes, they get frost and snow just like us!

We had our Christmas meeting early in the month of December so for some, it was their first mince pie of the season! A good crowd gathered in the smaller lounge room for a more social feel and we sat round tables in teams ready for the annual Quiz. This proved to be just as taxing as ever, for even when you knew the answers you had to speed write to get them down before the next one came up. Lots of knowledgeable folk meant the scores at the end were very close, with one round where every team got 20 out of 20, proving that we do in fact know more then we think we do. Member Jane Franklin had set some really good teasers and gone to some trouble picking shrubs and cutting out pictures for us to identify. All this interaction was followed by delicious drink and legendry mince pies, with prize plants for the winning team.

Our January meeting was a bit different for us, with gardening on a larger scale! We heard from Elaine Ingram, who is a BBOWT reserve worker. She explained how they start up new wildflower meadows and manage those they already have locally. A very interesting side of wildflowers we may not have given much thought to before. In February we have a fun and educational evening in one, with John Negus and his inimitable style of presenting information. Come along and see what we mean.

March will have us digging our vegetable patches after hearing some tips in a workshop atmosphere. Secrets of a herbaceous border will all be revealed in March by Rob Jacobs from the spectacular Waterperry gardens. These talks conclude our indoor meetings until later in the year. In between we go on visits to gardens far and near and hopefully take advantage of nice weather after all this rain has seen some our gardens under water. They will recover with a little help from us, We have all that to look forward to!

Penny Noble

Benson Indoor Bowls Club

Around twenty three years ago Dr Anne Millar approached some villagers with a plan to set up an Indoor Bowls Club. Short Mat bowls was an ideal sport for the then new Parish Hall and would provide an extra facility for the village. A few months later the club was founded, Dr. Anne provided funds to purchase two mats and other necessary equipment to start the club. The club quickly grew in popularity and at one time had eighty members! More mats and equipment were bought, we now have four mats, enough for thirty two players at any one time.

The club has changed over the years but remains a friendly club who would like to welcome new members of any age over 10 years, so do come along and have a taster visit. The club plays twice a week and also competes in two local leagues as well as County and National competitions. Bowling is a pastime that is enjoyable and sociable and even if you think “I don’t do sport” come and try you might surprise yourself! The club meets on Monday afternoon at 1:45 till 4pm and Wednesday evenings from 7pm (but not the 3rd Wednesday of the month that

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is when the WI meet). A warm welcome will await you so just come along or call 01491 832656.
This is all thanks to Dr Anne Millar who founded the club and was our President, she did so much for our village and will be sadly missed.
Marilyn Atkins - Club Secretary

Benson Evergreens

It seems ages ago now since we had that most enjoyable Christmas party, but it is not too late to thank all the people who worked so hard to give us such a great start to the season of goodwill.
We are now into our meetings for 2014 and the year started with a very popular speaker – Mr Bill Heine, the well know broadcaster from BBC Oxford. He gave a most interesting and amusing talk on his work with the BBC and the story behind “The Shark in the Roof”. Julia also reminded us that our next meeting, on 12th February, will be our A.G.M. when she will retire as Chairman and – in her words – “sail into the sunset”!!
We hope we will have a good attendance to welcome Ian Huntingford, as our new Chairman, and our new committee for 2014-15. We thank Julia for her many years of service to the club and also to the other members who are retiring from the committee. The A.G.M. will be followed by a fun quiz and there will be our usual sales tables, raffle and afternoon tea.
The Thursday coffee mornings at the Millstream continue after the Christmas break and anyone is welcome to join us between 9.45am and 11am. All enquiries to Julia Minall on 01491 838 402.
Sylvia Baker

Benson Tennis Club

Junior Coaching
Benson Tennis Club runs junior coaching sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-7pm, on Wednesdays from 6.15-7.15 and Saturday mornings from 9-11am. Age groups range from 4yrs to 18yrs. We have three great coaches, all who are qualified and CRB checked. Coaching is great fun and good exercise for your children and gets them out in the fresh air. If you are interested in Junior Coaching at Benson Tennis Club please email gina_btc@yahoo.co.uk with your enquiries. You do not have to be a member to participate in the Junior Coaching sessions.

Rusty Rackets
We run a ladies beginners/rusty rackets class every Wednesday morning between 9.30-10.30. It costs £4 per session (£3 for club members), no need to book, just turn up. We are all very friendly, and we can also lend you a racket if you don’t have one. Contact Liz on liz_btc@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Gina Russell

Benson Trefoil Guild

Our November meeting was a planning one thinking of things to do and places to see in 2014, how quickly time has gone by. Two of our members spent a week at Pax Lodge in London, Ann Freeman was one and she gave a very entertaining talk of their time there. We then made reindeer antlers with tights and balloons it was hilarious. Two members went to the Thame Guild for a Christmas party, early I know in November, but they don’t meet in December.
Sadly last year we lost two members of our guild Bridget Jones and our Treasurer Doris Bland both very sadly missed. Doris had been our treasurer for many years and will be a very hard act to follow. December we had our Christmas lunch at the Home Sweet Home in Roke it was really lovely very good service and we were made to feel very welcome.
Our winter meetings are to be in the afternoon at 2.00pm the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Millstream Day Centre this will be for a trial period to see if it suits everyone. If you would like to join us, or find out more of what we do please phone me, Jackie on 01491 839934. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year 2014.
Jackie Spencer
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Local Clubs & Societies (Cont.)

Clubs Sec: Alice Jones-Evans

Benson Badminton Club

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All replies to be sent to the following e mail address please: nigel.guile1@aol.co.uk

Nigel Guile

Riddeway U3A

Riddeway U3A meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground, Watlington and welcome visitors to their Speaker meetings. On 18th February we will welcome back Hugh Grainger who will talk about Barnes Wallis’s amazing career. A largely self taught genius whose designs went from airships to swing wing fighter planes via the famous bouncing bomb. And then on 18th March Stephen White will relate the sad but true story about the Tredescants, father and son, who were master planters and gardeners to the gentry in the reign of Charles I in a talk entitled ‘Skulduggery in the Shrubbery’.

Jacky Wagstaff

South Oxfordshire Probus Club

The club was formed in May 2012 and now has 39 members who are retired or semi retired professional people who have held senior positions in industry, commerce or the public sector. The club meets monthly at the White Hart Hotel in Dorchester on Thames where over drinks and lunch members hear talks on a wide range of interesting subjects included the railways of Oxfordshire, the Bermuda Triangle, the history of Wallingford, British Waterways, the production of morphine plus a discussion with our MP on issues in Parliament. Partners have been invited to a range of social events including a tour of the Palace of Westminster, a lunch and performance at the Watermill Theatre, a Thames river trip, a tour and tasting at a local vineyard and a tour of the Mini Factory at Cowley and the Morgan Factory at Malvern.
Anyone interested in becoming a member the club should contact the Club Secretary John Edwards email cs.soxprobus@gmail.com or Tel 01865 343062.

Richard Painter

Wallingford Gardening Club

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Antony Powell will present the “Life and Colour of the Pyrenees”.
Antony Powell first trained with Hillier Nurseries before completing an HND in amenity horticulture at Askham Bryan College. He has worked in nurseries and gardens in England and France and travelled to many other countries during his horticultural career. He now manages four gardens in North Hampshire / West Berkshire.
The talk will be held in Wallingford Town Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 13th February. Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby

Wallingford Photographic Club

Wallingford photographic club welcomes Phil Joyce ARPS on the 6th of February for a presentation on ‘Street photography’ and, on the 20th, Alan Copeland LRPS will share his views of ‘Eccentric London’. Both promise to be entertaining and informative talks illustrated with interesting images.
Also, for everyone interested in landscape photography, a reminder to buy a ticket to the special event on Sunday March 2nd with renowned fine art photographer and printer Paul Gallagher. Details are available on the club website, at www.wallingford-photographic-club.org.uk and tickets can be ordered from wallingfordpclub.events@gmail.com Tickets are £12 each and the event will be from 10.30am till 3.30pm.

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Sewing Alterations / Repairs, Wallingford, 30 years’ experience. Pick up / drop off service. Tel: 01491 200524 / 07948 188491 Email: wallingfordsewing@gmail.com www.wallingfordsewing.com

Thames Tai Chi & Qi Gong Free taster class. Ewelme Village Hall, High Street OX10 6HP 3.30pm Wednesday 5th February. Courses to follow. Mark: 07966 253399 www.healingqi.co.uk/tai-chi

Wagtastic of Nettlebed qualified professional dog grooming and dog day care. Also ‘Woof Wash While U Wait’ (short coat breeds only). www.wagtastic.co.uk Tel: 01491 642903.

Child minder/nanny required for p/t time work in Ewelme (approx 12 hours pw). Must drive. Full references essential. 07711 523 206

Advertising
To advertise in BB contact Anne Fowler on 01491 201734 or bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk

Benson Parish Hall
Benson Parish Office: 01491 825038
Office hours: Mon, Wed, Thu and Fri
0930 am to 1230 pm
Short Mat Bowls Mon 1.45-4pm/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

Table Tennis
Fri 8 - 10pm

email your news to bb.editor@hotmail.co.uk

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

The Benson Bulletin
c/o Benson Parish Hall
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Editor Anne Fowler 201734
Asst Editor Tom Stevenson 836888
John Burrell 832008
February
4 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Ewelme Cow Common CP. 6 miles Info 07976 302136
6 Benson Garden Club, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm ‘Gardening with Flair’, John Negus
11 BEST 7.30 pm Canons’ Rm, St Helen’s Church. “Butterflies” talk. 01491 838689
14 TWHAS talk ‘East Oxford Archaeology Project’ Jane Harrison 7.45 Wfd THall (£3)
15 Mammoth Book Sale, Millstream Day Centre, 10am to 3.30pm Light lunches & afternoon teas
15 Jonty Heamden charity antique valuations, Benson PHall 6.30pm £10 inc supper
18 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Maidensgrove Common 6.5 miles Info 01491 836563
18 BB AGM Benson Parish Hall Lounge, 8.00pm
25 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Cookley Green 6.5 miles Info 07719 692355
12 Benson Evergreens meeting Benson Parish Hall 2.30pm
13 Ewelme Elm Club - Quiz. LItts Trisha Scott (834734)
19 Benson WI Kere Harvey, Flower Arranging, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm
28 Talk on Dementia Support, Benson Parish Hall Lounge, 10.00am

March
1 Messy Church, Canons’ Room St Helen’s Church, Benson 3pm – 5pm
1 The Band of Music concert at St Mary’s Church, Cholsey 7.30pm Tickets £9/£7 Tel: 01491-652295
4 Ramblers. Meet 10 am Watlington Town car park 6 miles Info 01491 835080
6 Benson Garden Club, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm ‘Tips for growing veg’ with Mike Hougham
6 1st Lent Lunch St Helen’s Canons’ Room 12.30pm DVD: The Imam and the Pastor. Repeat screening 7.30pm
8 Nuffield Place Volunteer Open Day 10.00am Info: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nuffield-place/
11 BEST 7.30 pm Benson Parish Hall (lounge). Topic tbc 01491 838689
13 2nd Lent Lunch St Helen’s Canons’ Room 12.30pm DVD: Beyond Forgiving. Repeat screening 7.30pm
19 Benson WI Annual Meeting, Benson Parish Hall 7.30pm
29 Benson Community Pre-School Cake Stall, Bob’s Comer, Benson High Street, from 9.00am

April
3 Benson Garden Club, Benson PHall 7.30pm ‘Secrets of the Herbaceous Border’ with Rob Jacobs
3 3rd Lent Lunch St Helen’s Canons’ Room 12.30pm DVD: Beyond Right & Wrong. Repeat screening 7.30pm

May
5 RAF Benson: Rider Skills Day
11 Walk With Me, Moulsford School, for Action Against Cancer Info: www.walkwithme2014.com
11 Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade Info: www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk.

Entry into Benson Bulletin Diary is free - one line only (maximum 85 characters) - we welcome all meeting dates from local clubs and societies.
PRICE MATCH
We aim to match any commission rate offered by other local agents for sales and lettings

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