FEBRUARY 2020

# BENTLEY AND BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE

FRONT COVER IMAGE MYSTICAL 2019 BY: **FINDLAY SINCLAIR**

**Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle: Yann Dubreuil**

Holy Cross Vicarage, Binsted, Alton, GU34 4NX

Tel: 07777 684533 email: yann@benbinfro.org

**Website: www.benbinfro.co.uk**

**Assistant Priest** – Christopher Ogilvie Thompson Tel: 07776 178690
email: christopherot@me.com

**Benefice Administrators** – Hannah Dubreuil (admin@benbinfro.org) and
Lora Bowden (media@benbinfro.org)
Church Office open Monday 8.45am to 12.45pm,
Tuesday 8.45am to 1.45pm, Wednesday 9am to 3pm
and Friday 8.45am to 1.45pm

**Honorary Assistant Minister** – David Perryman, Treetops, Upper Froyle
Tel. 520647 david.perrypeople@gmail.com

**Parishes Prayer Chain** – Nick Carter – 472861 or nhcarter@talktalk.net

**Pastoral Care Team** – Nick Carter – 472861 or nhcarter@talktalk.net

**Readers** – Harold Fish, 6 Bonners Field, Bentley. 22947

**Bentley: St Mary's Churchwardens:**
Jill Kiely, 11 Broadlands Close, Bentley, GU10 5LE - 22735
Nick Caddick, Tanners, GU10 5NE - 23229

**Binsted: Holy Cross Churchwardens**
Kathy Ogilvie Thompson, Mill Court, GU34 4JF Tel No. 01420 23125.
Stella Croom-Johnson, 4 Foresters Cottages GU34 4PS – 23157
Liz Carey - Assistant Church Warden

**Youth Leader -** Gemma Ball - gemma@benbinfro.co.uk
**Worship Leader -** Sam Ball - sam@benbinfro.co.uk

**Parish Magazine**
Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to Lora Bowden on the **5th** of the month, by email (magazine@benbinfro.org)

**Editor:** Rev Yann Dubreuil

**Designer:** Mike Hammerton

**Treasurer:** Steve Fice, 01420 22197 steve.fice@btinternet.com

**Distribution:** Bentley – Harold Fish Tel 22947
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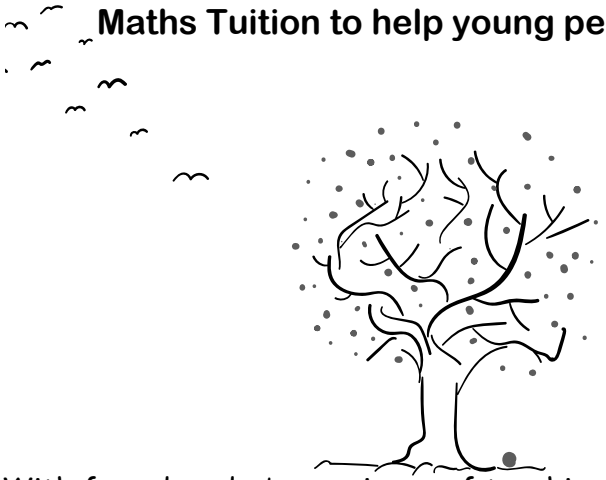

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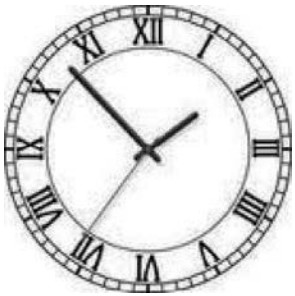

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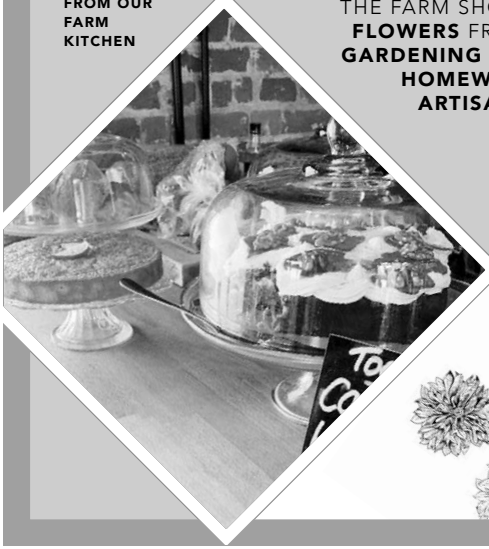

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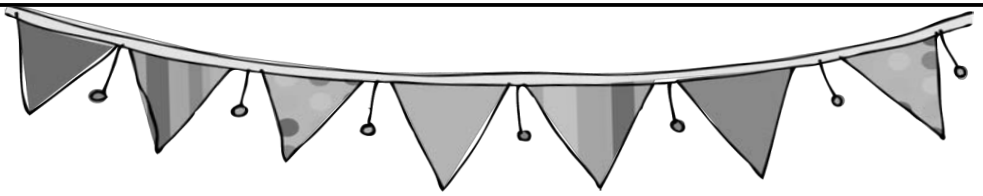

## Froyle Baby and Toddler Group

Thursdays, 9:45am -11:45am
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Froyle Village Hall

All babies and toddlers welcome with carers - only £2 per family.
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## Bentley Toddler and Baby Group

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There is more info on our Facebook page **"Bentley Toddler Group"** or you can phone Cheryl Edwards on 07530 671 832.


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# Vicar's Letter

Dear All

Although by this stage in the winter we often begin to feel we have suffered dark gloomy days, muddy lanes and rain for far too long, just think how hard it was before electric light, central heating and warm cars. The days would have felt truly dreary with the prospect of many more to come before spring, so it is not surprising that people welcomed an opportunity to recognise the gradual passing of winter, such as Candlemas Day which always falls on February 2. This day marks the halfway point between the shortest day of the year and the spring equinox. Although it is seldom recognised these days, Candlemas Day is so called because it was the day when all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year were brought into church so they could be blessed, hence a 'mass' for the Candles.

But in the church calendar and in a merging of Christian and pre-Christian traditions, Candlemas is also a festival to commemorate the ritual purification of Mary, forty days after the birth of Jesus. At one time women were not allowed to take Communion or even attend Church until they had been 'purified' after giving birth. This practice was usually referred to as 'cleansing' and even in more recent times it was commonly known as being 'churched', after the birth of a baby. But such references now seem not only archaic, but are alien concepts for modern ears more used to equality of the sexes and tolerance of life styles.

What is more acceptable to current thinking is the idea of giving thanks for the safe arrival of a child and the health of its mother. Not so long ago childbirth was a highly hazardous procedure and infant mortality was tragically high. Even today, with modern obstetrics and health care, birth is not without risk and many of us have sighed with relief at the news that a loved one has been safely delivered of a healthy baby. So thinking of Mary and other mothers in ages past, it is no wonder that those around them were glad to give thanks to God, even if they did deem it 'purification'.

Here in the Benbinfro team, we've been thinking about this little-known festival and decided it has also made us reflect on how old traditions can adapt with the times. We may not be banning new mothers from Church these days, nor are we dreading the long dark weeks of winter to the degree people once did, but we can still reinterpret former practices and find something meaningful and relevant to modern life. The ancient churches of our Benefice, rich in their glorious histories, can provide new inspiration for our mission in faith, with old and new growing together.

And perhaps now, at the beginning of February when the days are often grey and dank, when we may still have weeks of snow, sleet and rain ahead of us before the warmer months of spring, we might recognise Candlemas for its dual significance and give thanks for both the lengthening of our days and for the love of Mary, safely delivered of her son.

Blessings

*Yann and the team*

# Church Registers

## BENTLEY

| Weddings | |
|---|---|
| 25th October 2019 | Robert Manning and Rachel Bateman |
| 29th November 2019 | Anna Campbell and Chris Beer |
| **Funeral** | |
| 18th November 2019 | Suzanne Hill |
| **Thanksgiving** | |
| 18th December 2019 | Josephine Hal |
| **Burial of ashes** | |
| 11th January 2020 | Cecilia Furze |

## BINSTED

| Weddings | |
|---|---|
| 29th November 2019 | Yomi Olubajo and Leslie Stevens |
| **Funeral** | |
| 14th November 2019 | Margaret Ayres |
| **Thanksgiving** | |
| 22nd November 2019 | Brian Miller |
| **Burial of ashes** | |
| 1st November 2019 | Martin Lott |

## FROYLE

| Weddings | |
|---|---|
| 23rd October 2019 | Janet Haastrup and Oluwaseun Ogunjobi |
| 2nd November 2019 | Blessing for Toyin and Emmanuel Ayedun |
| 15th November 2019 | Eleanor Griffith-Jones and Daniel Poulter |
| 12th December 2019 | Rene Weeks and Nashan Wilson |
| **Burial** | |
| 19th December 2019 | William Stanford |

# PANCAKE LUNCH PARTY FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS

## FEBRUARY 25TH 12PM TO 2PM

Join us at the Wickham Institute, Binsted. Enjoy savoury filled pancakes followed by sweet pancakes.

RSVP to Jane Dalton 520278 or Helen MacDonald 474584 if you would like to come. Lifts are available - please ask if you need one.

February

# Messy Church

You are invited to join us on

## 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

### from 3.30pm to 5.30pm

IN BINSTED SCHOOL HALL, BINSTED VILLAGE

## Fun, crafts, celebration & Food!

All are invited - young & old alike, adults, children, teenagers, carers, grandparents, come as friends, families or partners, or come on your own. Everyone is welcome.

If you are a child, you need to bring an adult with you!

Entrance is free
Messy Team Co-ordinator:
Nick Carter 01420 472 861

## Sunday 9th February 2020

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

# LIVE@5

Our informal, family-friendly service
at St Mary's Church in Bentley.
On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

Join us at 4.30pm in the church hall for children's light supper and tea, coffee and cake for adults.
The service starts at 5pm.

Come along to this fun and friendly service. There are activities for children at the back of the church.

# BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

Why not come and join us for coffee/tea, cakes and a chat in a friendly welcoming atmosphere

At the Wickham Institute (Binsted Village Hall)
Church Street, Binsted, GU34 4NX

Children very welcome, toys available to play with

# INTRODUCING
# "BEN"...
## your new local Environmental Network

The climate is changing rapidly, threatening our future. The world is awash with single-use plastic. And apparently a million plant and animal species face extinction within decades. Yet, despite the many pictures of calamities that reach our screens, it can be hard to think clearly what we should be doing about it all. Even as scientists confirm the urgency for all of us to take dramatic and immediate action, it can feel that our own small efforts to make changes will be futile.

But a lot of us feel that even tiny villages like Binsted CAN change the world. If we work together, new ideas become a reality, and more interest follows: a trickle at first, and then a deluge.

So we're setting up a new local network – the Binsted Eco Network, or "BEN" for short – to share environmental tips and information about local events and activities. The objective is to make it easier for people in and around the parish of Binsted to keep well informed and be better placed to take personal action to support the environment:

- BEN will focus on sharing local environmental news and events through a short, weekly newsletter;
- We'll also be organising an Eco Day at Binsted's Wickham Institute later in the spring, with talks, workshops and fun activities.

You might be surprised how much is already going on in our sleepy rural area!

Simply email us at **Binstedeconetwork@gmail.com** to join our distribution list and find out more. It's open to all, completely free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

We hope you'll want to become a part of this new network. Whatever your individual interests, there's much that we can all do to make this lovely planet of ours just a tiny bit better.

*Alison Melvin and Tammy Yates, Binsted Eco Network*

# THANK YOU

The Binsted Christmas Fayre held on Saturday 7th December was a great success. Thanks go to all the stall holders and helpers and of course to all our customers on the day, including the children and their families who supported Binsted School's Santa's Grotto.

The money raised after expenses is approximately £1,720 and will be used to help preserve our beautiful village church.

Thank you.

# BOOKS

## Author of the Month: David Adam

David Adam was born in Northumberland.
He was a vicar in North Yorkshire for over twenty years,
and then Rector of Holy Island, Lindisfarne, ministering to thousands of pilgrims.
He has published several collections of meditations, prayers and reflections.
He is now retired and lives on the coast near Lindisfarne.

**Book of the Month: "Border Lands: The Best of David Adam"**
**SPCK, 1991, Hardback, 244 pages**

This book is a selection from four of David Adam's books from the 1980s and 1990s. The introduction includes references to Alec Vidler's Christian Belief, T. S. Eliot's *Little Gidding*, and C. S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.
The book ranges from the idea of God's Spirit giving us breath and strengthening us, through a prayer that Our Lord God will awaken us to His presence, His indwelling, His abiding and His guiding. We are reminded that Christ is our Everlasting Friend.

For some readers, the final two sections of the book may prove the most helpful. They are entitled: "Between Weakness and Strength" and "Between Dying and Living". Some of David Adam's most moving writing records his visit to someone who was obviously dying. He asked her if she was afraid. Obviously, what she feared most was being left completely alone. This is still the hardest thing for many who are in hospital. I do not believe, writes David Adam, that we should leave people to face that "great adventure" alone.

We are not alone. God is with us. Underneath are the everlasting arms – and those hands have the imprint of the nails. Right at the centre of the Christian faith is the Cross. There at the hub is a young man who has suffered injustice and all the hells that this world could hurl at Him. He is the scorned and rejected, and knows our sorrows. The Cross is the way to glory. It was, David Adam reminds us, the Psalmist who wrote: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me." - Psalm 23, verse 4.

At the time of writing, very good secondhand copies of David Adam's book are available via www.bookfinder.com from £2.70p including postage.
If you would prefer to borrow a copy, there is a copy in the small library at the back of Holy Cross Church, Binsted.

Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care

# Celebrating the Lives of Loved Ones

On Monday 2nd December, around 800 people gathered in the grounds of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham, at the charity's annual Light up a Life service.

Held to remember those close to our hearts who are no longer with us and to celebrate their lives, the service included readings read by the President of Phyllis Tuckwell, Chris Tuckwell, and the Mayor of Farnham, Councillor Pat Evans. There were prayers and blessings from Phyllis Tuckwell's chaplains, Rev. Dr Jill Thornton and Rev. Sue Lattey, and carols which were led by Farnham Brass Band and accompanied by the Kindred Spirits Choir, who also performed a fantastic rendition of White Christmas. During the service, the lights on the Hospice's Christmas tree were switched on, to represent the lives of those special people to whose memory the service was dedicated. All who attended were invited to South Farnham School afterwards, for mulled wine and mince pies.

"Our Light up a Life service is always a very special event," said Fiona Chapman, Events Fundraiser at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. "We would like to thank everyone who came along to help us celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us, all of the volunteers who generously gave their time to help, and all those who contributed to and supported the evening."

Phyllis Tuckwell provides supportive and end of life care for local patients and families who are living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer. It offers medical and nursing care, therapies, counselling, social work advice and practical support, and all of its services are given free of charge to its patients and their carers. However, to do this it needs to raise over £20,000 a day.

If you would like to remember a loved one, you can visit Phyllis Tuckwell's Light up a Life website at www.pth.org.uk/lual where you can dedicate a light on their virtual night sky.

# History & Geography at Bentley CE Primary School

Bentley has a wide curriculum which allows children in every year group – from Year R to Year 6 – which includes access to History and Geography throughout the year. Both subjects help the children to develop their knowledge of people and places and the processes that create and affect them. Our inclusive school values of 'Community, Love and Courage' reflect the philosophies we teach in these subjects.

We promote a skills-based, enquiry approach to history and geography, encouraging our children to be curious; to question, discuss and problem solve, and provide opportunities to develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development. The Junior history curriculum is chronological.

Our school visits enrich all the children's understanding and are extensions for learning outside the classroom. Here is a taster of what has been going on;

Our youngest class, Reception, take part in local walks around the community, learning about where they live. They learn about the weather patterns and seasons through the year. During their most recent trip to Alice Holt, they followed the Stick Man trail, taking with them stick men they had made from sticks gathered during their weekly outdoor learning time. Later this month, they will make their first trip to St Mary's Church to learn about the history of the building and see the amazing lime trees outside.

# School News - Bentley CE Primary

Arundel Castle is the destination for Year 1 in the summer where they will enjoy the beautiful architecture and learn about the historical importance of the castle and its features.

The Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley gave our Year 2 children the perfect chance to gain hands on experience of Florence Nightingale's job – they bandaged limbs and scrubbed floors just as she had done – and were able to see just how influential her work was in nursing today. "She must have been very brave", said Phoebe.

With an Iron Age Day at school later in the year and a visit to Butser Ancient Farm, Year 3 are embracing the past, learning about how communities were formed and covering many interesting historic times right through to the Roman settlements in the UK.

Year 4 recently visited Dapdune Wharf in Guildford to build on their river studies undertaken at the Gordon Brown Centre during their residential visit last year. Their visit included a boat ride on the Dapdune Belle, a towpath walk and a scientific experiment involving oranges being dropped into the River Wey to see if the middle or the edges of the river move faster. "The activities were amazing and the staff were really friendly" said Eva.

Residential visits later in the school year to the Calshot Activity Centre in Southampton will provide the perfect opportunity to study the coast and physical geography for our Year 5 and 6 classes. And a train ride on the Watercress Line will allow them real insight into how the railways of the past operated as they learn about the Industrial Revolution.

Year 6 spent a really interesting day at the Houses of Parliament; their tour included both the House of Lords and the chance to watch a debate in the House of Commons. It was a great opportunity to see democracy in action and have a Q&A session with our local MP, Damien Hinds. Charlie was fantastic in his role as the Speaker of the House during their workshop!

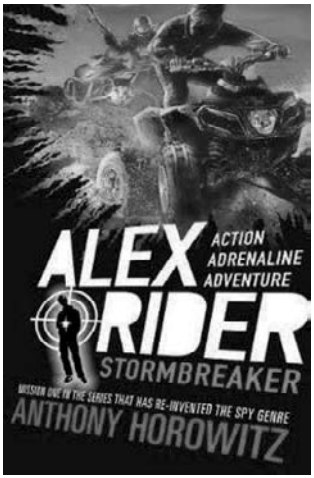
We feel our curriculum reflects our school - we embrace our small rural community but we endeavour to encourage our pupils to explore the world around them and beyond.

*Miss Hand, History & Georgraphy Subject Leader*

# School News - Binsted CE Primary

At Binsted we believe in the Christian values of Faith, Hope & Love.

**SILVER BIRCH**




**A great start to the spring term has shown Silver Birch at their best. They are studying Electricity in Science and our topic is based on climate and land use in The South Downs National park. In English they are studying Stormbreaker- Alex Rider By Anthony Horowitz. They have designed some fantastic Spy Gadgets; writing instructions on how to use them for new Secret Agents!**

Last term Silver Birch hosted the "Young At Heart" at our annual tea party and celebrated the multi-generational links with some fantastic poetry. Here are some examples which we read to the older members of our community in December.

**Grandma**
My Grandma us lovely, she's really nice,
She cooks great food; always on time.
To make me comfortable, she would always entice,
She has a faint scent of lime,
She drives a tiny car,
And always says she's fine,
Even when she drives too far!
*Verse 1- Neo*

**My Nan**
My Nan is wonderful and kind,
Her smile lights up the day,
She helps when I try to find,
And always checks if I'm okay,
She watches me play football and gets cold,
Her brain is so smart and bold,
Helps when I'm needing to fold.
*Verse 1- Ashton*

**My Granny**
She had a strong scent of roses,
Her hair colour as white as a ghost,
The scent would waft in my siblings noses,
I'd love to go and fetch her post,
She loved to stay by the fire,
Munching on a piece of toast,
Granny I love you to pieces!
*Verse 1- Zak*

**SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

# Coffee Morning for parents of children with additional needs

*I am hosting a coffee morning for parents of children with additional needs. It is very informal and is designed to be a safe place where parents can come and share hint/tips, successes (and support for those days where things aren't going your way!). Come along and join me for a cuppa and a chat. Feel free to bring a friend who you feel may benefit.*
*Thanks, Vicki*

**10AM TO 12PM**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL,**
**BENTLEY**
**GU10 5NA**

Hosted by Vicki Potter

# **LOOKING BACK:** BENTLEY FETE AND FLOWER SHOW

We are blessed in our two villages that there are people who are willing to give up their time and energies to organise what are very successful Fetes and Flower Shows and that the monies raised are re-invested in our communities. This month we take a look back from the record books of Bentley's Fete and Flower show as reported in the May and June 1985 magazines:

"Bentley's first Flower Show was started by a Mr Petrie in 1886 – 99 years ago. But allowing for gaps during the war years, this will be our 90th show.

The old record books make entertaining reading and it is interesting to compare early days with our present arrangements. In 1900 the Entrance fee was 3d for adults (Editor: approximately 1p in today's money) and 1d for children. It is surprising to note that in 85 years the cost has only risen to 10p for adults with no charge for children. The accounts showed a cost of £1 to hire a tent, £2 5 shilling for Rowledge Brass Band and 25 shilling for coconut shies and swingboats. We would be lucky if £500 would cover the cost today.

By 1901 the 'man at the gate' was offered 5 shilling. How fortunate we are now that Wing Commander Masters and Mr Patterson stand all afternoon for nothing selling tickets – or perhaps this year lucky programmes. In the following year we read that the School Band was prevented from playing because of an outbreak of scarlet fever.

By 1904 it was decided to procure one sideshow and a 'Punch and Judy'. This was arranged. The latter obtained from Harrods! In 1985 there will be a Punch and Judy but many stalls and sideshows.

A discussion took place about teas in 1901, as it was considered 'some people had partaken of considerable quantities and the small sum of 3d was insufficient to cover the cost of the amount eaten. The Ladies of the Committee were left to arrange any limitations they thought advisable'.

It was agreed in 1910 to pay four helpers to do the teas. Quite a job with boiling water on outside fires. Ten years later the Women's Institute offered to help and apart from the war, have served teas for the past 65 years. (Some people are perhaps not aware of the wonderful work done by the W.I., providing the teas and spending most of the day in the hot Pavilion).

Some of the entries for Competitions for Bentley Flower Show have changed little over the years but there are interesting records from early days. Gardens and allotments were originally judged and no one could win more than four prizes from either.

Extracts from past schedules [show]:

1902 Best trussed fowl.

1908 Needlework – Lace or muslin curtains; a Flannel garment. Cookery – a dish of boiled cabbage; a dish of boiled potatoes. Laundry was also included.

1911 Needlework classes had a Camisole as one item and another was a garment from material costing less than one shilling (5p.)

1935 Miss P Joy offered a prize for the best dinner for two costing not more than 1s3d (about 6p).

1937 Honey and Hurdle making were included.

There is also a note that "Queen Wasps were to be judged by members of the Committee and left in their hands after the Show"! JK

# Lent Concert by Alton Choral Society

## To be held in Alton Abbey Church

They will perform highlights from Duruflé's Requiem and other choral favourites.

A wonderful start to Lent, so do come and join us.

The Concert will be held on **Saturday February 29th**, and will start at **2.30pm**, and be followed by Tea.

**Tickets £10**

available from "Tickets", Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton Abbey, Beech, Alton, GU34 4AP

Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Alton Abbey'.

Please include a SAE & a telephone number and/or email address

For more information email: **friendsofaltonabbey@gmail.com**

Events in 2020 will be important fund-raisers for the Friends as we plan to build an access ramp to the church to make this easier for the less active, and those within wheelchairs, also the church lighting is to be updated. Please do support us.

# WHAT'S ON EACH WEEK?

## Monday

**Standing Pilates - 10.30am to 11.30am**
at The Wickham Institute
(Contact Claudia on 07913 238 442)

**Tea at Three - 3pm to 5pm**
at Bentley Church Hall

## Tuesday

**Flexercise - 10am to 11am**
at The Wickham Institute
(Contact Libby on 07843 061 559)

**Mens Group - 10.30am**
at The Star in Bentley
*This is an informal group open to all.*

**Beavers - 6.15pm to 7.15pm**
at Bentley Scout Hut

## Wednesday

**Binsted School Parents Coffee Shop - 9am**
at the Wickham Institute, Binsted

**Binsted Coffee Shop - 10am to 12 noon**
at The Wickham Institute, Binsted

**Yoga for Beginners - 6.15pm**
at Bentley Memorial Hall
Contact Liliann on 07783 078 601)

**Cubs - 6.30pm to 8pm**
at Bentley Scout Hut

**Slow Flow Yoga - 7.15pm**
at Bentley Memorial Hall
(Contact Liliann on 07783 078 601)

# WHAT'S ON EACH WEEK?

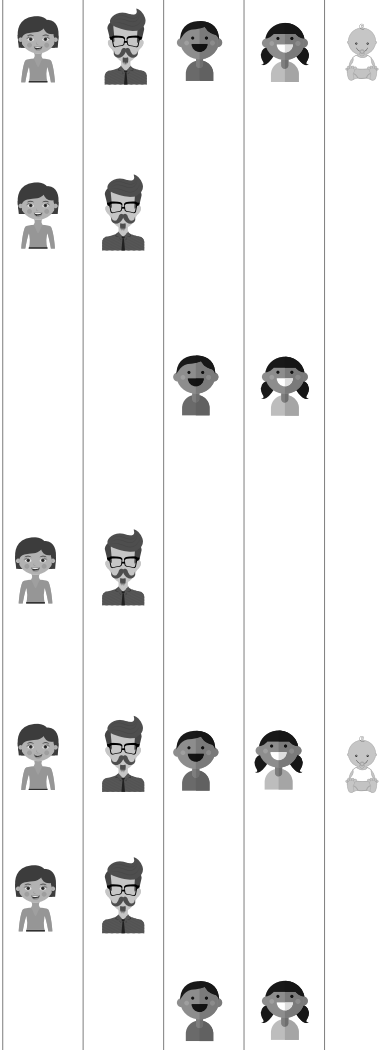
## Thursday

**Froyle Toddler Group - 9.45am to 11.45am**
at Froyle Village Hall

**Standing Pilates - 10.30am to 11.30am**
at The Wickham Institute
Contact Claudia on 07913 238 442)

**Binsted Football Training - 6pm to 7pm**
at Binsted Rec
Open to children from Year 2 upwards.

**Body Firming - 7pm**
at Bentley Memorial Hall
(Contact Liliann on 07783 078 601)



## Friday

**Bentley Toddler Group - 9am to 11.30am**
at Bentley Memorial Hall

**Yoga for all - 10am**
at The Wickham Institute

**Scouts - 6.30pm to 8pm**
at Bentley Scout Hut

**If you have a weekly event to add, or if you would like to amend a listing, please email magazine@benbinfro.org**

# Tea at Three

EVERY MONDAY 3PM TO 5PM
BENTLEY CHURCH HALL

**We look forward to seeing you for tea, cake, fruit and chat.**

**All ages are very welcome and there are toys in the hall for children.**

**There is no need to book, please just pop in at any time.**

**Look out for information about our brilliant Tea at Three crafternoons too!**

Wickham Institute, Binsted - Registered Charity No. 1090864

# THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk

LOTTERY FUNDED

## *The Wickham Institute 100+ Club*

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the December 2019 & January 2020 draws:

| December 2019 | |
|---|---|
| 1st prize | Gill Martin |
| 2nd prize | Sarah Boswood |
| 3rd prize | Graham Rood |

| January 2020 | |
|---|---|
| 1st prize | Rex Smalley |
| 2nd prize | Joan Longhurst |
| 3rd prize | Peter Wonson |

Details of the February 2020 draw will appear in the next magazine.

Remember each number only costs £12 (£1 per month) and you have three chances to win each month!

50% of the monthly purchase price of each number goes in prizes and 50% to the running costs of The Wickham Institute. The more people that participate in the 100+ club, the more money that is paid out in monthly prizes.

If you would like to participate an application form can be obtained from Andrew Croom-Johnson on 01420 23157 or email a request to Andrew at treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk.

# BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL 100+CLUB

The winners for December and January draws of the Bentley Memorial 100+ Club are below.

Contact Steve Fice,
Chairman Bentley
Memorial Hall
01420 22197
steve.fice@btinternet.com

## Congratulations to the Winners

| December 2019 | |
|---|---|
| 1st Prize | Belinda Barfoot |
| 2nd Prize | Bill & Chris Whitfield |
| 3rd Prize | Christine Goodyear |

| January 2020 | |
|---|---|
| 1st Prize | Peter & Sally Clarke |
| 2nd Prize | Patric Curwen |
| 3rd Prize | Ellen Saunders |

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# Alton U3A

February's Monthly Meeting has a local flavour. Colin Channor has been a journalist since leaving school at 18. He has been a Sports editor and editor of many newspapers here and abroad, including the Alton Herald. On February 21st at 2.00 in the Community Centre, Colin will share with us the experiences of those times. All welcome, further information on the U3A Web site.

*Farmers Viewpoint*

# Wet, wet, wet.

© Copyright Evelyn Simak

I'm thinking readers will have noticed that it has been wet for what seems like most of last year. Farmers, not always known for their happy disposition in life, are acutely aware of the rainfall figures. One local example is that between 23rd September (19) and 30th November (19) we received 466.5 mm (19 ins) of rain. The rolling annual rainfall 1.12.18 to 30.11.19 was 1379 mm (55.8 ins). The average rainfall for the last 6 years (January to December) is 41 ins per year. Admittedly it has been noticeably drier or do I mean less rainy over the festive period. Maybe 2020 will be very dry which will take the totals back to the average figures? It seems a while since we've had any longish colder and whiter spells than the last few winters' have managed…?

It seems odd to be commenting about the huge quantities of rain we've had when farmers and communities on the other side of the world are suffering the exact opposite and with such devastating effects. Our hearts go out to all the Australians who are suffering in the aftermath of the horrific bushfires.

The wet weather has meant different things to different farmers. Some are saying they've got nearly all their winter crops planted in the ground where others are saying they have no winter crops planted because it has been too wet to get machinery on the land – a lot will depend on soil type. Where we had some brief

respite from the showers toward the end of last year some farmers will have what we called ‘muddled-in’ some crops ie made the most of not ideal conditions in which to try and plant a winter crop. Some crops have germinated and grown on happily but others on a different soil type have sat there and literally rotted in the waterlogged soil – it’s if you like a gamble this was the year to test a farmers’ nerve!

Gas bangers are out in fields of oilseed rape (the crop that flowers yellow in April/ May). They mimic the sound of a gun going off and will hopefully scare off pigeon flocks who enjoy nothing more than a good chomp, during the hungry gap months, on the rape which is a member of the cabbage family. Speaking of hungry gap months many of the farmers in the locality are giving some extra food to our farmland birds, this is not the wheat that you’ll find in pheasant feeders, it’s smaller grains and seeds that’ll supplement the food the birds naturally find in the environment. It never ceases to amaze me how different the ‘reports’ from gas bangers sound, some do actually sound like a shotgun being fired but others sound more like the sonic boom of Concorde or an IED going off. There is an industry code of practice on siting and operating gas bangers, if you suspect a banger has gone rogue ie firing at night please try and contact the local farmer but please also spare a thought for where your vegetable oil comes from!

Practical work on farms during the winter includes repairing gateways, fences and maintaining machinery. There hasn’t been that much hedge cutting taking place due to the waterlogged ground conditions but also because many farmers leave the fruit laden hedges for the wildlife until later in the winter – the downside of that is the later cutting takes off some of the young hedge shoots so spring growth is slower. Some hedges are cut biannually but that leaves them looking much rougher with split ends of wood. This just demonstrates how many farming and environmental issues are interrelated so one “win” may adversely affect many more important issues. And it’s this point that I’ll end on. I’m desperately trying to avoid a mini-rant on a certain BBC programme that failed to recognise that beef produced from huge feedlots in Brazil where the animals ate maize produced on land that was once Amazon jungle and is then transported to the UK has a completely different environmental impact to home grown British beef that has spent it life grazing grass just a few miles from where it is consumed. The grass is going to grow anyway so let the animals eat it. I should probably say that most cattle are put indoors just before the ground gets so wet that their weight concentrated down through their four hooves makes an awful muddy mess of the pasture also known as ‘poaching’ the ground. Speaking of poaching, we’ve seen a lot less of them with the ground being so wet – hoorah for small mercies!

# Out and about in Bentley, Binsted and surrounding villages

This month: Food, glorious food!

Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of eating out far more than usual – due to birthday celebrations and belated Christmas get togethers. We are so fortunate to have some delicious eateries on our doorstep in Froyle.

**West End Flower Farm**

Froyle, Alton,
Hampshire, GU34 4JG
Tel: 01420 767306 or 07921 393 016
www.westendflowerfarm.co.uk

So far I have managed to experience brunch and tea and cake at this gorgeous setting. For those who haven't yet visited, it is well worth a trip out. In 2019, the farm (run by the lovely Butler family who are the 4th generation to farm here) launched the West End Kitchen and Farm Shop. The kitchen offers an ever-changing menu of freshly made food from brunch to afternoon tea; with delicious homemade food throughout. They champion local produce in the Kitchen and in their own words, "we strive to keep it simple yet excellent!". I had eggs and avocado on toast, which was truly scrumptious. I have also sampled their coffee and cake, which is home-made and as tasty as you can imagine. The one thing I have yet to try, but will be booking onto, is their Supper Clubs. There are three coming up in February (8th Feb, 14th Feb and 29th Feb), as well as one on 13th March. If you are interested in finding out more, or booking onto a supper club visit **west-end-flower-farm.square.site**

As well as eating, you can visit the farm shop which has a lovely range of treats - both edible and decorative. A great way to spend a morning, or afternoon!

**Hen and Chicken, The Barn Pizzeria**

Upper Froyle, Alton,
Hampshire, GU34 4JH
Tel: 01420 22115
www.henandchicken.co.uk

Just up the road from West End Flower Farm is the Hen and Chicken, a long established and well-recognised pub on the A31. However, new last year was their beautiful Barn Pizzeria. This is set behind the main pub in a stunning building. The stone baked pizza is freshly made and they have a fantastic range of flavours and toppings. I have eaten in and have also had a takeaway and I can promise you that you won't be disappointed. The Barn is also available to hire for parties and I was lucky enough to enjoy a Christmas lunch there. It is a light and airy space with exposed oak beams and can hold 20 people. Their party platters were incredibly generous and had an interesting mix of food – they were also great at catering for additional dietary requirements that we had. Whether you fancy a relaxed and impromptu meal, or you are looking for a venue to host an event, the Barn Pizzeria is worth a visit. Enjoy!

# THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY, ALTON

(01420 82802)

www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

Hours are Tues-Sat, Gallery 10.30 - 4.30, Museum 10 – 5

## ALLEN GALLERY

Under Continental Skies

A selection of paintings by **W H Allen** inspired by his trips to France, Italy and Switzerland.

W H Allen (1863–1943) is best known for his evocative watercolours, chalk and pencil sketches recording the landscapes, traditions and people of West Surrey and North-east Hampshire. But he also travelled widely on the Continent and the paintings in this exhibition draw on some of the finest examples of his work held in the collections of Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Why not pop in to the Allen Gallery and banish those winter blues by taking time out to bask in the warm colours and vivid evocation of long lost summers created by a master landscape painter.

**7 December to 1 February 2020**

FREE

TALKS

**Here's to the Men of Alton – WW11**

by Tony Cross. A follow-up to Tony's talk on the Alton men of the Great War. You won't want to miss Part 2 – the Second World War. Arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery. Thursday February 13, 7.30. FREE

**Alton's Wildlife Year in Photos**

With Steve Mansfield from Alton Natural History Society.

This informative talk covers a range of wildlife – butterflies, beetles, orchids, dragonflies and fungi, all to be found within a 10 mile radius of Alton.

Thursday February 27, 7.30. Tickets £5 per person from the Allen Gallery.

EXHIBITIONS

The current display of Under Continental Skies - paintings by **W H Allen** - continues until February 22. FREE

The Café area will be showing photographs by local artist **Joe Wilson** throughout February. FREE

## CURTIS MUSEUM

**Saint John Henry Newman**, who was canonised in October, spent some time with his family in Alton before he went to Oxford. He seems to have had mixed views of the place. "I wish no reference to be made, in any Memoir of me, to me or my family's residence there" was one comment. However, in a letter to Canon Durst of Alton his recollections were of "beautiful walks and rides about it, and of the fine hop gardens."

The actual letter, found in the Hampshire Cultural Trust archives, is the centrepiece of a small **exhibition on his life**.
FREE

HALF-TERM FUN
**Museum by Torchlight** Wednesday February 19. This very popular event returns; it's amazing how much children can discover in the Museum following a trail which is only lit by their torches. 5.30 – 7.30 pm, last entry at 7pm. £3 per child; children to be accompanied by an adult.

**Make & Take** Thursday February 20. Drop-in session between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Decorate a wooden train to take home. £5 per child; children to be accompanied by an adult.
(Please note this activity is in the Curtis Museum, not the Allen Gallery.)

# GET FIT, EAT WELL AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

I use the same heading this year as I did in 2019.

There are a number of 5 rod allotments available on the Hole Lane site, some of which have just become vacant and are in a good state of readiness for a suitable tenant.

If you think it is too much to take on by yourself, you might encourage a neighbour or friend to share a plot with you and there is plenty of free advice available, particularly if you are a first-timer.

I won't hide the fact that tending the ground doesn't involve some physical effort; it does require some of your time, especially at the beginning of the year when the ground has to be prepared and when the weeds begin to compete with what you have planted later in the season, but the activity is very rewarding.

The annual rent of a plot is only £20 and you can recoup that with a couple of well grown crops in the year.

There is the added benefit of meeting others on site and there is generally a good interchange of ideas, plants and excess produce. You don't need a great deal of equipment; first-timers can probably borrow a spade and a fork. The rest is up to you.

If you are interested to take on a plot please contact **Bill Whitfield (22536)** to have a chat about what is involved, or perhaps arrange an on-site visit.

## NOVEMBER WEATHER STATISTICS

### Temperature

| | |
|---|---|
| Daytime maximum | 14.8ºC (1st) to 4.4ºC (30th)<br>17 days below 10ºC |
| Nightime minimum | -4.8ºC (19th) to 9.3ºC (25th)<br>9 nights below 0ºC |

### Rainfall

| | |
|---|---|
| Total for month | 3.22 inches (81.9 mm) over 26 days |
| Wettest days | 0.45 inches (11.4 mm) (13th) |

### Wind

| | |
|---|---|
| Average wind speed for the month | 1.2 mph |
| Dominant wind direction | East North East |
| Maximum gust | 31 mph (2nd) |

## DECEMBER WEATHER STATISTICS

### Temperature

| | |
|---|---|
| Daytime maximum | 12.7ºC (6th) to 6.5ºC (4th)<br>7 days above 10oC |
| Nightime minimum | -5.2ºC (5th) to 7.6ºC (6th)<br>13 nights below 0ºC |

### Rainfall

| | |
|---|---|
| Total for month | 4.83 inches (122.6 mm) over 23 days |
| Wettest days | 0.62 inches (15.8 mm) (19th) |

### Wind

| | |
|---|---|
| Average wind speed for the month | 1.6 mph |
| Dominant wind direction | South West |
| Maximum gust | 31 mph (14th) |

*Parish Weatherman*

## WEATHER STATISTICS FOR 2019

| | |
|---|---|
| **Temperature** | |
| Highest Daytime temperature | 35.7ºC (25th July) |
| Lowest Nightime temperature | -9.0ºC (31st January) |
| **Rainfall** | |
| Total rainfall | 781.9 mm/30.78 inches (wettest month was December) |
| **Wind** | |
| Average wind speed for year | 1.5 mph |
| Strongest gust of wind | 34 mph (27th January) |

*Parish Weatherman*

**SAVE THE DATE**

# BENTLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS ANOTHER FILM SHOW

**20th March 2020 | Friday | 8pm**
**Bentley Memorial Hall**

# *Save the Date*

## SATURDAY 4TH JULY 2020

for the

# BINSTED FETE

## CELEBRATING 'LOCAL WILDLIFE'

This year's 'Local Wildlife' theme was designed by 13-year old Francis Yates and was voted for at the Fete AGM back in November.

Thank you to all who came to the AGM to share their thoughts on last year's event and offer suggestions to make this year even better! If YOU have any feedback on the 2019 Fete or have any bright ideas for 2020, please email **thebinstedfete@gmail.com**, we'd love to hear from you.

**Look out for the Flower Show Competition Categories in March's Magazine**

# WAYMARKS

A good New Year to all readers! I hope that 2020 is a memorable year for you all.

**Binsted, not Bentley…**
Thanks to those people who have contacted me as a result of these articles. However, I just need to clarify that my role as Footpath Officer, and also that of the Rights of Way Group, only covers the parish of Binsted, so any Rights of Way matters in Bentley are not something I can help with directly… sorry Bentley!

**Use the path, not the field!**
When you are out and about walking in the countryside, please try to ensure that you are always walking on a footpath or bridleway (both will usually be clearly marked with HCC waymark roundels and possibly also fingerposts) or on a permissive path. Permissive paths are routes across private land upon which the landowner has provided access to the public; there will usually be a clear notice to this effect at the end of the path.

Walking across fields, unless on a Right of Way or permissive path, constitutes trespassing and can also cause problems for the landowner. One landowner recently told me: `We are involved in agri-environment schemes, which often appear to be rough grass. However they are there for a purpose and the general public walking through them defeats that purpose!` So, please always stick to the path!

**Wickham Institute hosts 40+ walkers for lunch**
Back at the beginning of November, over 40 walkers enjoyed a lunch of soup, flapjack, cake and coffee or tea at the Wickham Institute. There were walkers from the morning Walking for Health walk over the Binsted plateau and several more who were going on the longer afternoon walks, which are led by some of the Walking for Health leaders, including myself. The convivial event was a great success and both the visiting walkers and the Wickham kitchen crew were very well pleased: we are already planning another walkers` lunch in early February.

**Walk of the month**
Just a short one to start the ball rolling! This is a pleasant and undemanding walk of just a couple of miles; ideal for those days when you feel like a walk for a quick breath of air. Remember: walk this at a brisk pace and you`ll feel very much better when you return!

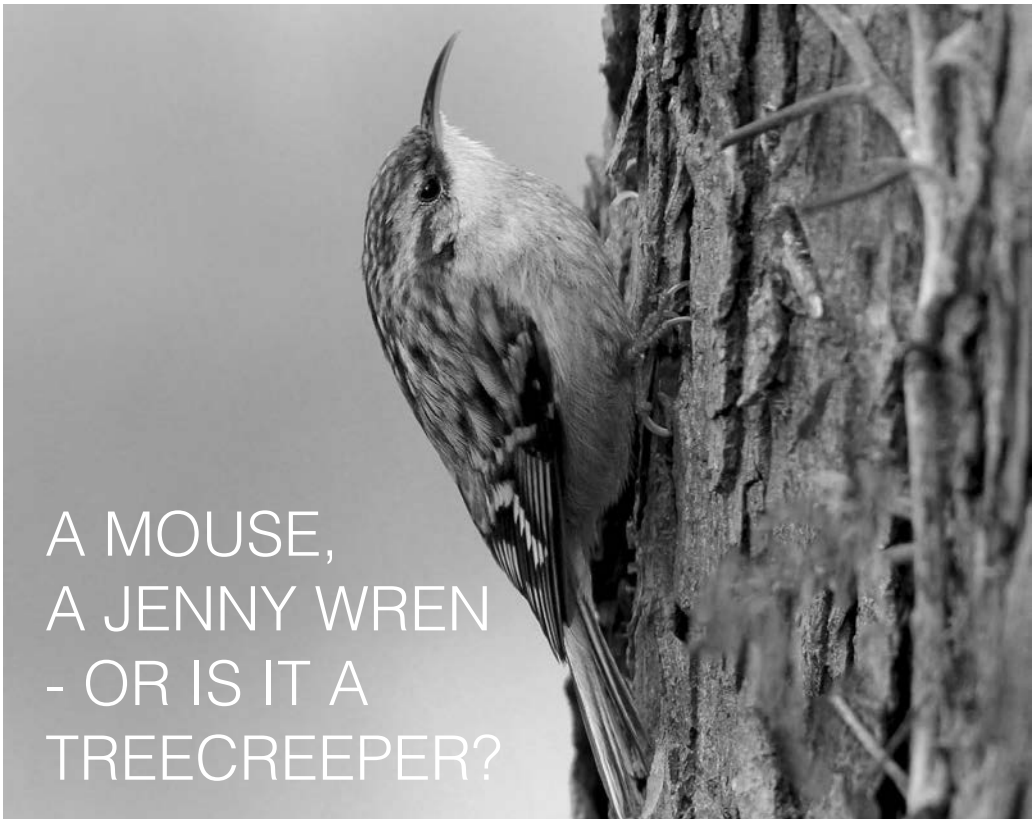
Start at the Recreation Ground car park. Walk down to The Street and turn left, then walk along the pavement, past the turn into Thurstons and on to the next turn on the right, the lane down to Hay Place.

This lane is a private road, but also a right of way for walkers. It descends through shady woodland, with steep sided banks formed in the local calcareous sandstone, or malmstone, the bedrock of the Binsted plateau. Where the lane reaches the gate to Hay Place, the right of way swings left; its gravelled track provides a firm walking surface, ideal for striding out. The track soon bends to the right, crossing a wooded valley on a short section of causeway, then climbs slightly between large arable fields to reveal long views across the plateau. At a left hand bend, the track passes an old barn, constructed of the local malmstone, with the characteristic Hampshire central cart entrance and exit.

Round the bend the track heads through a narrow belt of trees directly south east towards Wheatley and here you turn left on a path. Nearby the Ordnance Survey map records a spot height of 142 metres, the highest point in the parish. Follow the path north and then north east before turning left at a fingerpost. Then follow a headland path which becomes a green lane and emerges onto the Binsted to Blacknest road at Binsted Place.

Turn right along the road for a few metres until you see a footpath sign on the left; cross the road and take this path which climbs gently onto the open farmland of the plateau. After a short distance, turn left onto another path that heads west back towards the village.

At a T junction with another path turn left and walk back down to the road, then turn right and return to the start of this short walk. *Ian*



# A MOUSE, A JENNY WREN - OR IS IT A TREECREEPER?

Some years ago I was sitting outside a cottage in West Wales and noticed a tiny brownish bird busily flying between some scrubby bushes and the base of an old ash tree. At first I assumed it must be wren, but soon realised that this was a treecreeper feeding its young in a nest tucked into the roots of the ash tree.

The treecreeper is actually quite a common bird, surprisingly frequent in gardens. It tends to get overlooked however, being well camouflaged as it busily circles its way like a mouse up the trunk of a tree. It has been described by one writer as "a perfect little package of form and function, intricately barred, being so delightfully, precisely, white and brown". WH Hudson writes in British Birds about "the little creeper appearing to move.... unlike almost any other passerine bird, yet it never fails to interest, ...it is more of a parasite on the trees that furnish it with tiny insects than any other bird of similar habits. Nuthatches and woodpeckers, for example, are not so dependent on tree trunks alone; their habits and diet vary to some extent with the seasons." Indeed, upsetting though it may be to us, the diet of the great spotted woodpecker even includes treeceeper chicks.

In Autumn 1853, the Cornish plant hunter William Lobb, working for Veitch Nurseries, returned to England with the seeds of the "big tree" or "vegetable monster" that he had discovered in California's Sierra Nevada thanks to a chance

encounter with a bear hunter. But what to call the newly discovered giant? The Director of Kew Gardens decided that it should be called Wellingtonia gigantea, marking the recent death of the Iron Duke. Such was the demand for seeds and plantlings of the Wellingtonia, that today there are substantial numbers of this tree nationwide; it is particularly well suited to the treecreeper's needs. Its deeply grooved bark is soft, light and chunky, offering abundant warmth and shelter, with its drooping branches providing additional cover.

But you don't need to plant a wellingtonia in the garden to attract a treeceeper. You are just as likely to find this little bird - the only small brown land bird of the region with a distinctively curved beak - in mixed woodland, parks or gardens, where it favours yew, spruce and pines as well as the "big tree". Almost never away from its protective tree trunk, it is also worth listening out for its very high pitched and prolonged "tseee" call note. As with so many birds, you often hear them before you see them. HP

# BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB

Our first 2020 meeting will be:

**Tuesday 4th February 2020** – In the Bentley Memorial Hall Denis Smith Room at 8pm when we will be having a talk from Geoff Peach entitled "A gardener's look at Ireland, its plants and scenery".

The monthly "Best outdoor flower of the month" competition restarts at this meeting.

If you were unable to make the AGM you will be able to pay your annual subscription at this meeting.

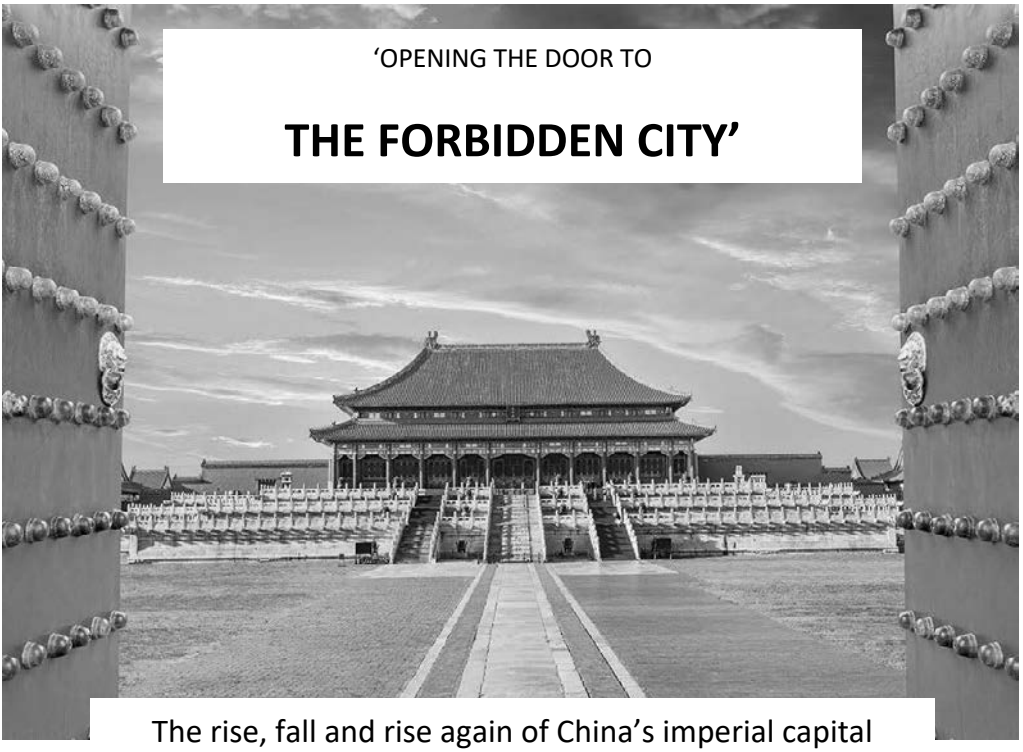
**For your diaries:**

**Tuesday 3rd March 2020** – meeting as usual in the Bentley Memorial Hall Denis Smith Room at 8pm when Adam Vetere will be giving a talk entitled "Old Camps, the history and design of the garden".

At this meeting there will be the annual baking competition for the Eileen Elpet Memorial Plate. This year the competition is for 6 Savoury Tartlets and Chocolate Brownies.

Visitors are welcome at our normal meetings @ £2 on the door.

**Visitors are welcome at our normal meetings @ £2 on the door.**



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**By**

## MARY GINSBERG

**(local resident)**

**Former Curator, British Museum**

## FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

## Drinks 7.15 p.m., Talk commences 7.45 p.m.

## The WICKHAM INSTITUTE, BINSTED, GU34 4PB

TICKETS £10.00 from Catherine Hadfield 01420 23146

# Rotas

## Bentley Flower Rota

| Date | Altar | Chapel |
|---|---|---|
| 2, 9 February | Gill Thallon | Liz Mace |
| 16, 23 February | Marilyn Greenway | Pauline Gillan |
| 26 Feb – 9 April | LENT | |

## Binsted Flower Rota

| Date | |
|---|---|
| 2nd February | Joan Benham Crosswell |
| 9th February | Joan Benham Crosswell |
| 16th February | Sue Beyfus |
| 23rd February | Sue Beyfus |

## Binsted Church Cleaning Rota

| Cleaning Rota | |
|---|---|
| 2nd February | Sue Stephenson/Helen MacDonald |
| 9th February | Jackie Raine/Esther van Rooyen |
| 16th February | Valérie Robins/Helen MacDonald |
| 23rd February | Val Gill/Suzie Honey |

# Come and take part in our Yoga classes in Froyle, Bentley and Binsted.
# From January

**in Froyle Village Hall**
**starts on 06/01/20**
**on Mondays at 10.00 am Yoga for everybody**
**on Thursdays at 5.30 pm Yoga for everybody**

**in Bentley Village Hall**
**starts on 08/01/20**
**on Wednesdays at 6.15 pm Yoga for Beginners**
**on Wednesdays at 7.15 pm Slow-flow yoga**
**starts on 09/01/20**
**on Thursdays at 7.00 pm Body Firming**

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**Namaste**
**Liliann**

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We would like to change the adverts to be at the back of the magazine. They have been laid out as they are due to an old method of printing which we know longer use and we feel it makes more sense to have them all in one place. If you would like to comment on this please email magazine@benbinfro.org

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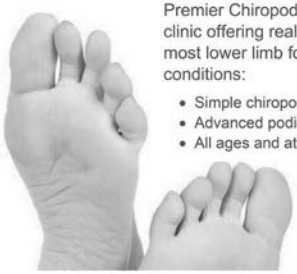

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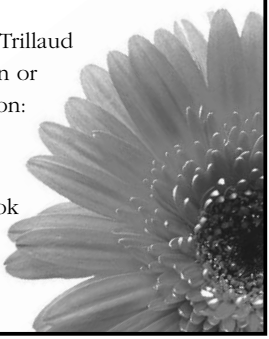

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Email: steve.fice@btinternet.com
www.bentleymemorialhall.org

**Badminton Club:** Martin Fox 07710 035913
martin.fox62@yahoo.co.uk

**Garden Club Chairman**
Andrew Croom-Johnson Tel: 01420 23157
Treasurer Patricia Cardy Tel: 01420 22325

**District Council**
Ken Carter, Brookfield, Station Road, Bentley GU10 5LA. 01420 22576 Email kenc@comark-associates.co.uk

**Parish Council**
Chairman: Mr John Goodyear 01420 22133
johngoodyear@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Vice Chairman: Patric Curwen 01420 520060
Clerk: Lorraine Jeffs 07795 326539
Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Bentley Memorial Hall, Hole Lane,
Farnham GU10 5LP
Parish Office Hours
Monday to Thursday 9am to 3pm

**Bentley School**
Headteacher: Katy Pinchess 01420 525010
Email: bentleyschoolptfa@gmail.com

**Childcare**
Dottie Tots: Karen 07387 576 307

**Fête Committee**
Chairman: Hugh Chissell, Greystones, Bentley 01420 23117

**Flower Show**
Chairman: Ruth Ross-Thomson 01420 520322

**Bentley Youth Club** Pippa Blizzard 07714 239644

**Phoenix Group:** Cathy Smith 01420 520169

**Bentley Rec Ground**
Chair: Stephen Whowell
Stephenwhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

**Toddler Group:** Cheryl Edwards 07530 671 832

**Over-60s Club:** Catherine Leonard, Cedar Cottage, Bentley 01420 23506

**Joint Parish Organisations**
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Bookings 01420 23440
Secretary: Cathy Smith 01420 520169
**Girl Guides** (at Holybourne)
Lucy Yendell 01420 80560

**BINSTED**
**Website:** binstedparishcouncil.com
**The Wickham Institute**
Chairman: Catherine Hadfield 01420 23146
Bookings: Ann Mann 01420 22388
email: annmann074@btinternet.com
www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk
Treasurer: Andrew Croom Johnson - 23157

**County Councillor** Mark Kemp Gee - 01420 563550, email - marknkempgee@aol.com

**District Council**
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Email kenc@comark-associates.co.uk

**Parish Council**
Chairman:Ron Neil
r.neil@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Vice Chair: Debbie Brooks
d.brooks@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk: Sue Hodder 01420 520692 (office)
07495 261913 (Mobile 9am to 5pm) Mon to Fri
Email clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Deputy Parish Clerk: Karen Ray 01420 520692
Email depclerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: binstedparishcouncil.com
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**Binsted School**
Headteacher: Sharron Morton 01420 23200

**Fête and Flower Show**
Matt Arrowsmith
thebinstedfete@gmail.com

**Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:**
Nial Dunne 01420 22922
tennis@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
http://e-voice.org.uk/btcc/

**Growmore Club Secretary:**
Reita Fisher 01483 570996

**Bentley and Binsted Police**
Police Rural Beat Officer: Jess Hornsby
Alton Police 101

**Binsted Cricket Club**
Chairman: John Dineen 01420 520980

**Binsted Football Club**
Secretary: Tim Winkworth
binstedfootball@gmail.com

**Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)**
@FOBSBinsted 01420 23200 or
fobs.binsted@gmail.com
Chairman: Alice Cowie

**2nd Bentley Scout Group**
**General Enquiries:**
group@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

**Group Scout Leader** – Bob Wilson on 07769906745 or email bobs.car@sky.com
www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

## FEBRUARY

**Sunday 2nd February**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| 5.00pm | Bentley | Live@5 (food served at 4.30pm) |

**Sunday 9th February**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30am | Bentley | Morning Worship & Children's Church |
| 11.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion |
| 3.30pm | Binsted | Messy Church |

**Sunday 16th February**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30am | Binsted | Morning Worship |
| 11.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion with anointing for healing |
| 5.00pm | Bentley | Live@5 (food served at 4.30pm) |

**Sunday 23rd February**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.00am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | Bentley | Holy Communion & Children's Church |
| 6.30pm | Froyle | Evensong |

**Wednesday 26th February – Ash Wednesday**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30am | Froyle | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion |
| 7.00pm | Binsted | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion |

## MARCH

**Sunday 1st March**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| 5.00pm | Bentley | Live@5 (food served at 4.30pm) |

**Sunday 8th March**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion |
| 3.30pm | Binsted | Messy Church |
| 5.00pm | Bentley | Live@5 Confirmation Service (food served at 4.30pm) |

*Please note that this is different from our usual service pattern due to Bishop David Williams visiting for the Confirmations.*

**Sunday 15th March**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9.30am | Binsted | Morning Worship |
| 11.00am | Froyle | Holy Communion with anointing for healing |
| 5.00pm | Bentley | Live@5 (food served at 4.30pm) |

**Sunday 22nd March – Mothering Sunday**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.00am | Binsted | Holy Communion |
| 9.30am | Binsted | Mothering Sunday Service |
| 9.30am | Bentley | Holy Communion & Children's Church |
| 6.30pm | Froyle | Evensong |

**Sunday 29th March**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11.00am | Binsted | Benefice Holy Communion Service |