

APRIL 2023

BENTLEY AND BINSTED

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

As I write, the beautiful countryside we are blessed to live in, is covered in a blanket of snow. It is a magical feeling to wake up with that whiteness reflecting the early morning light and seeing all the hard edges of the world softened and smoothed by snow. It immediately made me think of a passage at the beginning of Isaiah's prophecy, which a modern translation records as:

"Come now, let us argue this out," says the LORD. "No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool. If you will only obey me and let me help you, then you will have plenty to eat. But if you keep turning away and refusing to listen, you will be destroyed by your enemies. I, the LORD, have spoken." Isaiah 1:18-20

Isaiah is addressing a particular time in the life of the Jewish people and calling them back to a true expression of what it means to be God's people by doing good, seeking justice, helping the oppressed, orphaned and widows, those in the most precarious position in society. Yet the offer of God to make us clean again is also central to the message of Easter which we celebrate this month.

The snow is currently covering the snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses, but when the melt comes, their new life will reappear as spring takes hold. Jesus reminds us that we all need this new life, fresh start or clean slate if we are truly to live. We need to die to what was before our old harmful attitudes and behaviour, and experience rebirth by radically putting our faith in God and asking for his forgiveness and restoration.

As Christians, we put our faith in Jesus, who was God made flesh and lived among us. He fully experienced the full gamut of human experience, the good and bad, yet handled it all without sinning or causing harm to himself or others. When he was put to death for being a blasphemer by claiming (and demonstrating) that he was divine. He carried all of our sin, shame and wrong and by dying in our place, offers the free gift of new life to any that will receive it.

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If you are of a sceptical frame of mind, can I suggest a film you might want to watch? "The Case for Christ" is available on some streaming services and tells the true story of an award winning investigative journalist who seeks to debunk Christianity and put the Christian message on trial by exposing inconsistencies and false thinking.

To paraphrase C.S Lewis, the Easter story is either the biggest hoax visited on the human race or is the greatest hope for humanity. This is what we need to make our minds up about and find out for ourselves. What it cannot be is merely vaguely interesting.

For me, Jesus's death and resurrection to life are the source of my life, my faith and my hope. May you find time to make up your own minds, by really considering the evidence. May God cover you this Easter with his forgiveness and love, which will smooth your hard edges and blanket you like a covering of freshly fallen snow.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Church Register

Bentley

Friday 3rd February 2023 Funeral of Rhoda Dorothy Peggy Plumridge



BenBinFro APCM Dates

Froyle

Thursday 20th April 2023

7:30pm

Froyle Village Hall

Binsted

Sunday 23rd April 2023

Straight after 9:30am service

Holy Cross, Binsted

Bentley

Sunday 21st May 2023

Straight after 9:30am service

St Mary's, Bentley

Youth & Children at BenBinFro

We have done so much in the last few weeks that I thought it would be better to show you, rather than write about them! Take a look at a selection of photos from the United Weekend Away in February, four:twelve where we made bridges out of newspaper and United Youth on a Sunday in March where we finished up the pancakes leftover from Shrove Tuesday! We have also been to Top Rock and to Soul Survivor church in Watford for a Saturday celebration.



There are some exciting things in the works for April and beyond... Here are some things I'd like to highlight (with more info in the magazine!):

- Wednesday 5th April – MINECRAFT Easter
- Easter Saturday – Easter Garden Making in Froyle for the whole family
- BRAND NEW Youth group 'Plugged In' – starting up on Mondays after Easter, hearing amazing stories from the Bible and getting digitally creative

Make sure to take a look at the helpful calendar to see 'What's On' through April and spot the flyers for more info about our special events.

Gemma Ball

Pastoral Assistant (Youth) & Administrator

gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

Youth & Children at Ben Bin Fro



Contact Gemma for
more details:
gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 9:30am Bentley Worship with Children's Church (age 0-11) 6:30pm United Youth EGGstravaganza (year 7+)
3 Easter Hols	4	5 10am-2pm MINECRAFT Easter (year 3+)	6	7	8 10:30am Froyle Easter Garden Making (families)	9 9:30am Bentley Easter Sunday Holy Communion (family friendly)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 5pm four:twelve youth club (year 5-7)	22	23 5pm Bentley Live@5 YumYum (family friendly)
24 4pm Plugged In (year 3+)	25	26	27 12:30pm Binsted Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	28 12:30pm Bentley Lunchtime Club with Gemma (in school)	29 5pm Soul Survivor Saturday Celebration (year 7+)	30 6:30pm Upagear Youth Group (year 8+)

Easter Saturday

Saturday 8th April

10:30am

Froyle Easter Garden Making
& Easter Egg Hunt

This one's for the younger members of our church family. Come along to make your very own Easter garden, followed by an Easter egg hunt!



MINECRAFT

Easter Story

Love Minecraft? Come along to our extra-special Minecraft Easter Story day! You'll get to spend the day building a scene from the Easter story. (Prizes may be included for the best scene!)

Wednesday 5th April

10am - 2pm

South Warnborough Ridley Hall

Lees Hill, RG29 1RW

- £2
- Bring your own device with Minecraft
- Bring a packed lunch

Book your place with Helen or Gemma

Helen - youth@moretolife.church

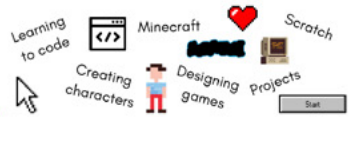
Gemma - gemma@benbinfro.co.uk



more+

PLUGGED IN

Come along to hear some amazing stories from the Bible and get digitally creative!



Mondays 4pm - 5:30pm

Long Sutton Primary School, RG29 1ST

Starting after Easter!

*Bring a laptop
For KS2 and above*

Contact Helen or Gemma to register your interest or for more info

Helen - youth@moretolife.church

Gemma - gemma@benbinfro.co.uk



more+

trinity's
**big
sleep
out**

12 May
2023

WAKE UP TO HOMELESSNESS IN THE GROUNDS OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Friday 12th May 2023

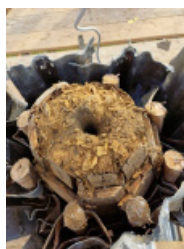
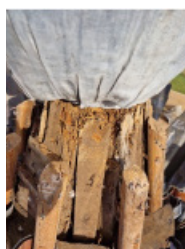
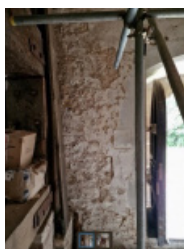
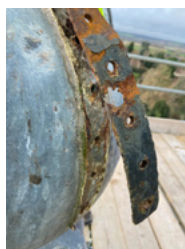
Fri 6pm - Sat 7am | Family Event



Scan Me to
Donate

BenBinFro Youth are taking part in the Big Sleep Out again this year! Joining with the UNITED youth group, we have a fundraising target of **£1000**. Your generosity not only goes directly to Trinity Winchester, but you are also supporting our young people, knowing you're behind them, as they sleep in their own cardboard shelters!

This is also an appeal for your unwanted **cardboard boxes!** Please collect your boxes, the bigger the better, and drop them off in the porch at Bentley Church. Thank you.



HOLY CROSS CHURCH, BINSTED SPIRE APPEAL

For much of the last year, Holy Cross Church in Binsted has been covered with scaffolding following damage to the church in the storms of last winter.

The repair work for the storm damage has been paid for by our insurance company, but historic wear and tear issues that have been identified during the repairs which have to be addressed and paid for by the PCC.

We have used all our reserves and have applied for as much funding as we can, but we have now run out of money and need to urgently raise an additional £35,000 to complete the essential work on the spire and tower.

As part of the compulsory 5-yearly review on the fabric of the church, it was realised that the tower was in need of some TLC. The work to repair damage from two storms in 2022, has revealed a lot more work that needs to be done. We also need to restore our wonderful weathervane which has suffered over the 30 years it has been in place.

Also, last autumn, the ground floor in the bell tower was deemed unsafe. Our Tower Captain installed a temporary floor, which meant the bells could still be rung. We now have permission to install a new floor.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We've been very fortunate that vast majority of the storm repair work has been paid for by our insurance company but the PCC have had to pay for any historic issues that needed to be addressed. We used money we had put aside and have applied for as much funding as we could, but we have now run out of money and need to launch a spire and tower appeal to help finance the essential work that has come to light.

The bell tower and its weathervane are a much-loved feature of the village and we'd love to make them safe for many years to come. The weathervane is the building's



crowning glory and a landmark for anyone approaching the village. We'd love to put them both back into tip-top condition but we need your help to do this.

We are still waiting for some quotes to come in, but we're looking at a shortfall of around £35, 000. Can you help us please? If you would like to donate, please use the QR code overleaf or contact one of the team for more information. If you would like to donate, please use this QR code or contact one of the team for more information.

Churchwardens:

Stella
binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk
or

Cathie
churchwardenbinsted@benbinfro.co.uk

Treasurer:
Andrew binstedtreasurer@benbinfro.org

Bentley Golf Championship 2023



We are pleased to announce that the 17th annual Bentley Golf Championship will take place this year on the 5th May at Blacknest Golf Club. If you are keen to take part please contact Dick Davies at richarddavies1001@gmail.com or on 07720782638.



Ring for the King. Bellringing training is now underway across the benefice and at Bentley we start off on Monday 27th March at 7pm with one-to-one tuition. There's space for a few more recruits to take up this amazingly rewarding exercise.

You can be aged between 10 or 80 and be welcomed. It's a great physical work out, mentally stimulating, and lifelong friendships are formed in the tower and over a beer too!

So, if you've ever thought of giving it a go, now's your chance and you will book your place in history too by becoming one of the ringers for King Charles' Coronation. Please call or text Simon on 07539 073878 to find out more.



Line Dancing

CLASSES

in the **Wickham Institute** on

**Thursday 20th April
at 7.45pm**

and

**Thursday 27th April
at 7.45pm**

In aid of the upkeep of
Holy Cross Church, Binsted

£20 for both sessions or
£10 for one session

Pay cash or bank transfer to Holy
Cross Church details from Angela

Email
angela1dunne@sky.com

Tel. 01420 22922





We're getting ready for
**THE FRIENDS OF TRELOAR'S
PLANT SALE**
SATURDAY MAY 20TH 10 – 12.30
TRELOAR'S PIAZZA GU34 4GL

- * COLOURFUL ANNUALS
- * PHOENIX PERENNIAL PLANTS
- * BRING AND BUY PLANTS
FROM LOCAL GARDENS
- * MUSIC, PRODUCE, RAFFLE,
TEAS AND CAKES

FREE ENTRY PLENTY OF PARKING
In aid of Treloar's charity no
1092857



EASTER

Items needed

- Rice (dry)
- UHT Milk
- Apple Juice (long life)
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned meat (hot dogs, stewing steak, pies)

- Sponge puddings (long life)
- Pasta sauce
- Chocolate spread
- Hot chocolate
- Washing up liquid
- Cleaning spray

Items not needed, as we have plenty in stock: Tinned tomatoes, Pasta, Baked beans, Soup

We have collection points in Bentley and Binsted churches, there is also a collection point in Froyle village hall, or you can take your donations to Alton Maltings where there is a drop box outside the main door.

If you are in need yourself, please do visit <https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/alton-get-help/> where there is advice on how to get help.



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP

@ THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE

(Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX)



WEDNESDAYS 10am – 12noon (during term-time)

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US

COFFEE, TEA and HOME-MADE CAKES ONLY £2

ALL WELCOME

(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI





THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the March 2023 draws:

February 2023

1st prize Hilary Spicer

2nd prize Claire Fargetot

3rd prize Mike Christmas

Details of the April 2023 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.



BINSTED TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB 2023



New court booking system
soon to go live!

Hopefully, everyone is digging out their sports gear and dusting down their tennis racquets and croquet mallets in anticipation of the season ahead, which starts on 1st April!

For the new season, we have a new initiative on the cards which we think tennis members will welcome, especially those living further afield from Binsted village.

In recent years, members have asked about an online booking system to provide some certainty about getting on court and also to avoid the need to physically turn up to make a booking. Hitherto, this has been deemed either too expensive or too time-consuming to set up and operate, especially given the club is a non-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers; finding someone to spend the time to look into it and then set up and run it has understandably proved elusive.

Fortunately, an extremely capable young member has stepped forward and identified a solution we think will work, be cost-effective and involve minimal administration as well as bring other membership benefits, including a find-a-partner feature for those looking for a tennis partner or group of a similar standard to themselves. We hope this new system will enhance member communications and be much more user-friendly for younger members.

You can find out more about membership — including latest membership fees and the features & benefits of the new booking system as it develops — via www.e-voice.org.uk Alternatively, there are contact phone numbers and emails of the committee members at the back of this parish magazine.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Tuesday 4th April 2023

Our next regular monthly meeting is on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at our new time of 7.30pm in the Denis Smith Room at the Bentley Memorial Hall. At this meeting we will be having our Spring show. Remember there are cash prizes for 1st/2nd/3rd in each class!

The classes will be:

1. 5 miniature daffodils, same or mixed variety
2. 5 daffodil or narcissus, same or mixed variety (not miniature)
3. 5 different spring flowers (not daffodils or shrubs)
4. 3 Hellebore flower heads floating in water
5. A stem of a flowering shrub
6. A spring flower arrangement, maximum width 18 inches

Please arrive in enough time to submit your entries so that we are able to start the judging promptly at 7.30pm.

Whilst the classes are being judged we shall have the usual Chairman's light-hearted quiz!

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come.

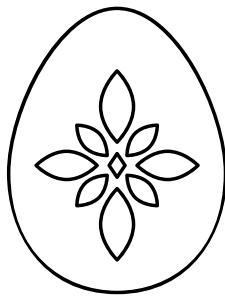
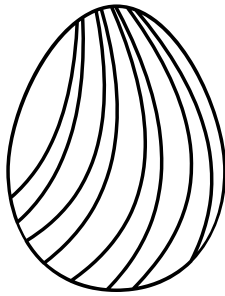
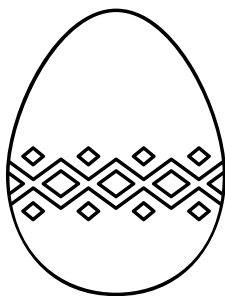
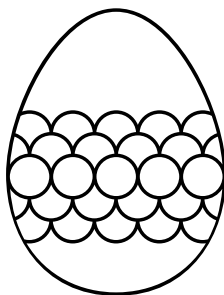
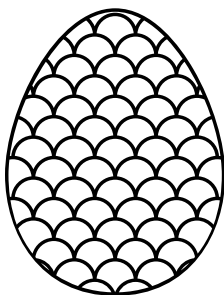
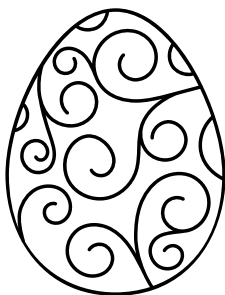
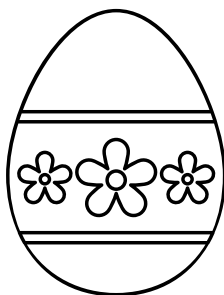
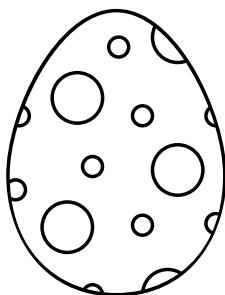
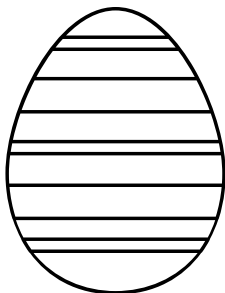
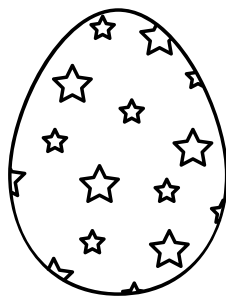
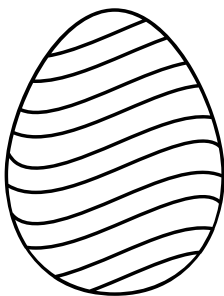
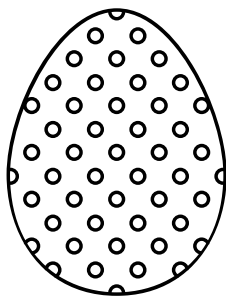
This meeting is also open to non-members at a cost of £2.

For your diary

Tuesday 2nd May 2023 @ 7.30pm – our next monthly meeting when Roger Butler will give a talk on Pelargoniums (tender geraniums)

Saturday 13th May 2023 10am to 12 noon – our annual plant sale

Colouring
sheet



Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

		7	5	2			6	
		2			9			8
		6	4	7				
7	6	8			5			9
	3	1				4	5	
4			3			7	8	1
			8		4	3		
1			2			8		
	5			1	3	6		

All you need to do is to fill in all of the squares in the puzzle so that each column of 9, each row of 9 and each 3 x 3 square includes every number from 1-9.

No prizes – just a huge amount of satisfaction!

Sudoku game MEDIUM

			1					
9				3	4		8	
6	7		5			2	1	
			1	3		7	8	
	1	5				2	4	
	4	7		6	5			
7	5				6		1	4
1		2	4					9
				9				

Sudoku game HARD

4						3		7
		9		8			2	
	5		3		2			6
6	9		7				5	
		3				7		8
					5			
					6		3	
		5		7	9			2
2	4					8		



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

In Beech Class this term we have been learning about plastic pollution, extreme environments in Geography, and Captain Scott in English. Our main focus topic has been the Anglo-Saxons and exploration. We visited the brilliant Butser Ancient Farm to understand more about the Anglo-Saxons and even found some bones during our archaeological dig!

We are really looking forward to the rest of this half-term and learning more about history, the environment, and intrepid

explorers!

*Mr Hill
Beech Class*



Binsted Cricket Club

A new season begins on 22 April and we are really looking forward to a full summer of cricket. Last year was a huge success on and off the pitch, and it would be great if we could carry that momentum into 2023.

You can see our fixture card below – please do come along to support or heckle us (as you prefer), you will be more than welcome.

We will also be holding Friday Night Socials at the Rec, from 12th May for 10 weeks until the school summer holidays. Every week, there will be a BBQ and bar (although some people prefer to bring their own) and plenty of people playing cricket, croquet, tennis or catching up for a chat. We will provide coaching for children wanting to play cricket from Year 5 upwards. Please do come and join us, it will be great to get the Rec buzzing again on Friday evenings.

If you would like to find out more about this, or anything else we are involved with as a club, please feel free to drop me a line: ben.krempel@hotmail.co.uk

Cheers for now.



Binsted CC

Senior fixtures 2023

Date <small>(Sunday unless indicated)</small>	Versus	Venue	Time
22 April 2023 <small>(Saturday)</small>	Headley CC	Away	1.00pm
30 April 2023	Tilford CC <small>(Bank Holiday Weekend)</small>	Away	1.00pm
7 May 2023	<i>No game</i>		
14 May 2023	Brook CC	Away	1.00pm
21 May 2023	Rowledge Casuals CC	Home (a)	1.00pm
28 May 2023	The Sandrock T20 <small>(Bank Holiday Weekend)</small>	Home	1.00pm
4 June 2023	Medstead CC	Away	2.00pm
11 June 2023	Lord Wandsworth College (Staff XI)	Away	1.00pm
18 June 2023	<i>No game - Father's Day</i>		
25 June 2023	Vagabonds CC	Home	1.00pm
2 July 2023	Herriard CC	Away	1.30pm
9 July 2023	<i>No game</i>	<i>Away</i>	
16 July 2023	BCC TOUR - WEYMOUTH <small>(Friday 14th to Sunday 16th July)</small>	Weymouth	
23 July 2023	Fairlands CC	Home	2.00pm
30 July 2023	Lynchmere CC	Away	2.00pm
6 August 2023	Irascibles	Home	1.00pm
13 August 2023	West Meon CC	Home	2.00pm
20 August 2023	<i>No game</i>		
27 August 2023	Geoff Thorne XI <small>(Bank Holiday Weekend)</small>	Home	11.00am
3 September 2023	Rowledge Casuals CC	Home (h)	1.00pm
10 September 2023	Crondall CC	Away	1.00pm
30 September <small>(Saturday)</small>	BCC CLUB DINNER/PARTY	The Binn	6.30pm
Binsted Cricket Club	Captain: Paul Knight, 07955 374974		
Recreation Ground	Secretary: Ben Krempel, 07907 247117		
The Street	Website: https://binsted.play-cricket.com/home		
Binsted			
Hampshire GU34 4PB			



February 2023

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

15.1°C (15th) to 7.3°C (28th)

1 day above 15°C and 13 days below 10°C



Nighttime minimum

- 8.6°C (8th) to 10.5°C (17th)

16 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

0.17 inches (4.4 mm) over 9 days



Wettest days

0.07 inches (1.8 mm) (22nd)

Note: average rainfall for February over preceding 5 years was 2.75 inches (69.9mm)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

West South West



Maximum gust

19 mph (2nd)

Parish Weatherman



Join the Hart Male Voice Choir: Taster Evening

For camaraderie, new friends, fun and musical achievement, join a Male Voice Choir. Hart Male Voice Choir, currently with about 55 choristers from Hampshire, Berkshire and Surrey, is looking for new members.

The Gareth Malone series on TV provoked huge interest in choral singing and it's well established that it's a great release from stress and a benefit to mental health. Although previous choral experience is an advantage, most new members haven't sung since they were at school. This isn't a problem as our

Musical Director helps us with group voice-coaching, and rehearsal tracks are provided. Check our "Come and Join Us video" for a virtual taster: <https://youtu.be/vUuDNMPAChQ>. To experience our learning tracks check: [Choir \(hartmvc.org.uk\)](https://hartmvc.org.uk) and click "Join the choir".

If you are thinking of giving us a try, come to our Taster Evening on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Cross Barn, Palace Gate, Odiham RG29 1JX.

For further information and to register interest, please contact: Richard Bothams 01420 22327 bariorcb77@outlook.com; or Jack Salway, johngsalway@gmail.com, 01428 683 405; text or phone 07796 379 757, or check (hartmvc.org.uk)



Binsted's 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

*You're
invited!*

*Annual
Parish
Meeting*



**WEDNESDAY
5 APRIL 2023
7.00 PM
WICKHAM
INSTITUTE**

Annual Parish Meetings are worth attending – not only are refreshments provided, but they're also truly 'public' meetings, at which any parish resident can raise matters of local interest. In fact, they're a legacy from the Middle Ages, when parish councils didn't exist, and local decisions were made when the whole community got together.

Last year's APM was very well attended, and we're hoping this year's will be even better. We have a lot more councillors than last year, so it'll be a great opportunity to introduce everyone, tell you about some new parish initiatives, and take a look at Binsted's 2021 Census results. We also have two lovely guest speakers – Doug Jones, from the South Downs National Park, and County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee.

Do come along, to hear what's going on. Don't be shy! It'll be great to see people from all parts of our big parish.

Alison Melvin, Chair, Binsted Parish Council

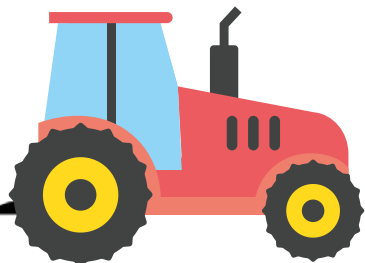


the
Binsted 2023
fete

Saturday 8th July

Binsted Rec

1-4pm



Flower, Produce & Photo Competitions;
Fun Dog Show, Fete Stalls & Games, Young
Entrepreneurs, Bouncy Castles, Mill Cottage Farm
Animal Petting, Entertainment, BBQ & Bar,
Tractor Rides... and much much more!

For more details, Competition & Dog Show
categories and entry forms + Fete history

Online: www.binstedfete.co.uk

Facebook: Binsted Fete and Flower Show

Email: thebinstedfete@gmail.com



WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way network

I mentioned a while ago in this column that we have a new Community Engagement Ranger for Hampshire's South-East Area, Megan Cledwyn. That post had been vacant for a long time. Since she started, we have been in regular communication and are keen to get back into the process of maintaining and improving Binsted's Rights of Way network. The first major step is for Megan to join us at the Parish Council offices during April, to conduct Path Warden training for the entire group of seven volunteers – for some, this will be their first and for others, it will serve as a

refresher and a chance to ask questions. It will also be an opportunity to plan some of the major projects we enjoyed carrying out in Binsted parish – most of these have been on hold for a while.

We also received a grant from the Binsted Fete Committee and have now used that to acquire some new and replacement tools such as secateurs, saws and gloves for the volunteers to use in keeping the Rights of Way clear. We are certainly well-equipped to deal with the new spring growth that we will soon be seeing.

We have also reviewed all of the problems on Binsted footpaths that

have been logged on the Hampshire County Council website and closed those that have already been addressed or are no longer applicable. So we now have a clean list that can be addressed by the volunteers where possible, but if not by the HCC rangers or the relevant landowners.

The volunteers are regularly inspecting the parish's footpaths, but if you would like to report a problem on any of the Binsted Rights of Way, you can do so online on the Hampshire "Report a problem on a right of way" page – this requires you to create an account and log in to the site first. Alternatively, you can use the volunteer team's own email address to do so – it is BinstedRoW@gmail.com. One final way of reporting a Rights of Way problem is to do so on the Binsted Community Facebook group. The volunteer team will try to identify problems reported there and deal with them promptly if we can – in all cases, please give as much location information as possible.

Walking Resources

We have been working on a revamped page on the Parish Council website, which should include some walks in the parish, by the time you are reading this magazine. Please take a look!

Finally, the excellent Alton Walking Festival is nearly upon us again. It runs from 1st – 31st May 2023 and, as usual, will have a large number of guided walks covering a wide variety of distances and themes including family walks, town walks, with some featuring bluebells, trees, ghosts, bats, butterflies, dark skies, foraging, poetry and wellbeing. Truly something for everyone! A number of them are based in our parishes. You can find out more information on the Walk Alton website or the Alton Walking Festival Facebook page. All of the walks have limited places and must be booked online, so don't delay.





Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

Bentley Parish Council

invites you to attend

The Annual Bentley Parish Assembly

Tuesday 25th April 2023
at 7.30pm

in Bentley Memorial Hall

Under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Fuller

Every year, the Parish Council invites the Bentley Parish residents to attend the Annual Parish Assembly.

This is not a parish meeting, but your opportunity to meet with your Parish, District and County Councillors to hear what is happening in your village, as well as guest speaker(s) representing Bentley clubs, associations, and establishments.

An agenda will be available on the evening.

Light refreshments of wine, coffee and nibbles will be served after the meeting.

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Tuesday to Sunday

Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY EVENTS

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Till 18th April (Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery):
Join us for an **egg hunt** with a twist! We have 8 eggs hidden around the Allen Gallery. Can you use your trail sheet to match them to 8 British bird species. Once completed your spotter sheets can be used to watch birds at home or at your local green space.

4th April: **Adventures in Clay** - two family clay sessions 12.00 - 1.30 and 2.00 - 3.30 pm, creating projects inspired by animals in the museum and gallery collections. Please book via the website.
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Monday mornings throughout April: a new **creative and well-being programme for older people**. A series of free creative workshops delivered in partnership with Dementia Friendly Alton and a local primary school. Please email allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Over the Garden Wall

Continues till 23rd April – this year's exhibition of works by W H Allen, RA.

TALK

Maria Heath Green (nee Curtis) and her designing sons, Romney and William.

By Keith Baker

13th April, 7.30, FREE, donations welcome.

CURTIS MUSEUM

British Bird Egg Hunt till 18th April.

Join us for an **egg hunt** with a twist! We have 8 eggs hidden around the Museum. Can you use your trail sheet to match them to 8 British bird species. Once completed your spotter sheets can be used to watch birds at home or at your local green space. (Different eggs from the Gallery!)

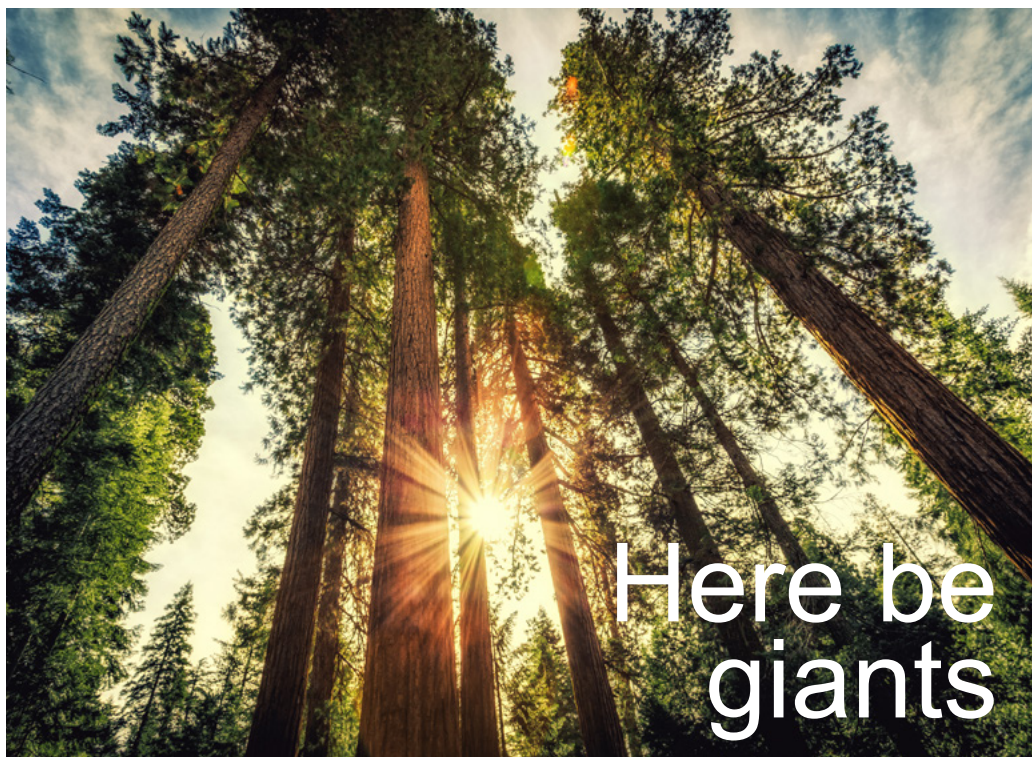
Papermaking in Alton.

A small exhibition of items relating to the paper-making industry, which continued in the town for many years, is being shown **upstairs**.

The first known papermaker was Benjamin Godwin (from 1759) and he was followed by several others who met with varying degrees of success. One of the successful ones was William King, who was responsible for creating Kings Pond in order to get a good head of water.

Papermaking continued until 1909, at which time the workforce received notice. Some may have been employed subsequently at a new mill in Kent. Hand-made paper was produced for most of Alton Paper Mill's history. The Museum is in contact with a descendant of the Carpenter family, many of whom worked in the mill over the years. Susan Shafrir (granddaughter of Kate Anne Carpenter and grandniece of Grace) is a mixed-media artist and a Member of the Society for Embroidered Work and of the European Textiles Network. As part of the exhibition Susan has given the Museum some material demonstrating the making of hand-made paper:

FREE



Here be giants

You are surrounded by giants.

There's one in School Road in Rowledge. There are several in the Alice Holt Arboretum, at the top of the path up from Bentley station. They're everywhere in Alton.

I'm talking, of course, of the giant redwoods, also known as giant sequoia, Wellingtonia, or just Big Tree.

The world's largest tree, General Sherman, is a giant redwood, although that claim is challenged by a close relative, the coast redwood, which can certainly grow a little taller, but is somewhat skinnier. Anyway, both comfortably outweigh the blue whale.

No country park is complete without one. I recently visited the National Trust estate at Sheffield Park near Haywards Heath, and, of course, they have some there.

They are no longer native to the UK, and we have the Victorians to thank for the number we have around us now. As well as being the biggest, they are also the longest living trees. If we leave ours alone they will be

here for thousands of years. You have to wonder what sort of world they will look down on as they approach the ends of their lives.

To achieve such longevity a tree needs some special survival tools. Great height helps, as it positions the canopy above the competition for sunlight. But the greater the height the greater the distance the sap has to rise to reach the topmost foliage. And without water there will be no foliage. The water pumping system of the giant sequoia is superb, but this brings downsides as well as upsides. The timber is useless for its most dangerous predator, homo sapiens, as it is as porous as cardboard. On the other hand this leads to a particular vulnerability, which I will come to shortly.

The next protection mechanism is the bark. It is very unlike the usual texture of tree bark. It is soft and spongy. You can punch it (go on, I dare you!). Much thicker than a normal bark, it is also rich in tannin, making it very resistant to fire.

An example of the unfortunate downside I mentioned, I saw at Sheffield Park. A 150 year-old Wellingtonia was struck by lightning last year and probably killed. Trees, in general, are vulnerable to lightning strike. They are, after all, natural lightning conductors.

But most trees will survive (and, of course, lightning never strikes twice, right?) albeit with an horrendous scar down the trunk, and the occasional fallen branch. However, this Wellingtonia, like those of its kind, conducted the lightning down **inside** the trunk because of its anomalous construction. It is wetter on the inside than it is on the outside. The huge burst of electrical energy – 300,000 volts, according to my physics textbook – meets little resistance and superheats the internal fluids to the point at which the trunk explodes as if struck by a bomb. Now, all that is left of this once tall tree is maybe 10 metres. There are still some lower branches, still with foliage, but the lightning will have travelled on until it reached the earth, and we must fear that the roots were also destroyed.

I'm supposed to finish on a brighter note, aren't I? Well don't worry. Just visit your neighbourhood sequoia, and give it a punch! Both of you will survive, I guarantee.

Ben Hamlin
(binstedtrees@gmail.com)

Parish Councillor Elections



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

Nominations for the district and parish elections on 4th May 2023 will be taken from Friday 17th March to Tuesday 4th April (by 4pm).

Go to: easthants.gov.uk/elections for details.



Garden Open/Plant Sale
Wheatley House, GU35 9PA
(between Binsted & Kingsley)
Sunday 23rd April: 1.30 – 5.30 pm

Entry £5 (children free) in aid of NGS (National Garden Scheme) charities. Colourful borders full of Spring flowers with wonderful panoramic views over Alice Holt Forest and South Downs beyond. Plant sale, including many perennials from our own garden in aid of Binsted Church Spire Appeal. Light refreshments and local crafts in old barn. Stone sculptures in the garden...Do join us!



Jumble Sale



2nd Bentley Scout Group
Saturday 20th May 2023

Scout Hut,
School Lane,
Bentley
GU10 5JP

Doors open at 2:00pm
Entrance Fee 50p

Patrons are requested to take any contributions to the
Scout Hut by 12:00 noon on the day

Large item pick-ups available evening before
or between 8 am and 10 am on the day:
Please call Bob on 07769 906745

(Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept beds, TVs,
3-piece suites or cookers)

White Elephant, Bric-a-Brac, Electrical, Furniture, Books,
Toys, Garden/Workshop items and jumble stalls proposed.

Please help support your local Scouts and make
this another bumper sale

Hedge-laying at Blacknest Fields



Blacknest Fields has been the focus of a lot of hedge-laying activity recently. The South Downs National Park rangers kindly led three volunteer work parties and laid a very challenging 70 metre section of hedge that was in extremely poor condition. Then local hedge-expert Jonny King led two further, well-attended hedge-laying ‘taster’ days for local volunteers, who laid a further 30 metre hedge section, funded by a CPRE ‘Community Hedge Fund’ grant.

Restoring Blacknest Fields for wildlife isn’t a short term project, but the ancient art of hedge laying is a great way to help revitalise its declining hedges and restore these important green corridors. If unmanaged over long periods, hedges attempt to grow into lines of trees, with nothing at the bottom to contain livestock or shelter wildlife. Mechanically-cut hedges also start to die back when they are repeatedly cut to the same line. The process of hedge-laying, in which the living stems are pushed down to the ground, initiates a burst of new growth. Fresh shoots emerge from the stools and between the old cycle of growth



Before ... and after!

Just as styles of vernacular building developed to suit local soils and climates, so there are over 30 distinct regional styles for laying hedgerows. Blacknest Fields' hedges have been laid in the 'South of England' style, which involves creating a brush on both sides, driving a single line of hazel stakes into the hedge's centre, binding the top with hazel, and immediately trimming both hedge sides.

A well-laid hedge is a beautiful thing. Although the clean, tidy lines of newly-laid hedges last only a few seasons, by then the objectives are met, with dense, stockproof hedges that provide excellent natural shelter for wildlife and livestock.

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to the South Downs National Park, its rangers and volunteers;

to the CPRE Community Hedge Fund, Friends of Blacknest Fields and Johnny King,

from 'Wooded Space' (Instagram @wooded_space; Facebook @woodedspace.)

Sudoku Games Answers

3	8	7	5	2	1	9	6	4
5	4	2	6	3	9	1	7	8
9	1	6	4	8	7	5	2	3
7	6	8	1	4	5	2	3	9
2	3	1	9	7	8	4	5	6
4	9	5	3	6	2	7	8	1
6	2	9	8	5	4	3	1	7
1	7	3	2	9	6	8	4	5
8	5	4	7	1	3	6	9	2

Sudoku game EASY

5	8	4	9	1	2	6	3	7
9	2	1	6	7	3	4	5	8
6	7	3	5	4	8	9	2	1
2	9	6	1	3	4	7	8	5
3	1	5	7	8	9	2	4	6
8	4	7	2	6	5	1	9	3
7	5	9	8	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	2	4	5	7	8	6	9
4	6	8	3	9	1	5	7	2

Sudoku game MEDIUM

4	6	2	5	9	1	3	8	7
1	3	9	6	8	7	4	2	5
7	5	8	3	4	2	1	9	6
6	9	1	7	3	8	2	5	4
5	2	3	9	6	4	7	1	8
8	7	4	2	1	5	9	6	3
9	8	7	4	2	6	5	3	1
3	1	5	8	7	9	6	4	2
2	4	6	1	5	3	8	7	9

Sudoku game HARD



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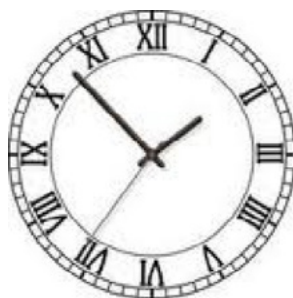
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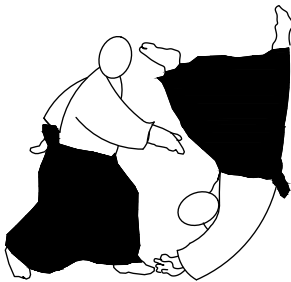
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The Memorial Hall

(Bentley Memorial Hall Association):
Chairman: Steve Fice Tel. 01420 22197
Email: bentleymemorialhall@gmail.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 Fuller 07768 558751
johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk: Emma Wadey 07795 326539
Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: [@bentleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bentleyparishcouncil)
Instagram: [@bentley_parish_council](https://www.instagram.com/bentley_parish_council)
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: Vanessa Remington 01420 525322

Phoenix Group: Linda Fuller 07891 825410
email: lindafuller1105@gmail.com

Bentley Rec Ground

Chair: Stephen Whowell
stephenhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Joint Parish Organisations

Care Group (car service)

Bookings: 07775 458873

Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne)

Lucy Yendell 01420 80560

2nd Bentley Scout Group General Enquiries:

admin@2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk 07974377736
www.2ndbentleyscouts.org.uk

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

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Ken Carter, Brookfield, Station Road,
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Email ken.carter@easthants.gov.uk,
David Ashcroft, 07966 511 868.
Email DavidAshcroft@easthants.gov.uk,

Parish Council

Chair: Alison Melvin, 07851 677 057
a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Vice Chair: Chris Meade,
c.meade@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk Lisa Spindler
Tel: 01420 520692 Mobile: 07483 310631
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Website: Binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
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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:

Chair: Nial Dunne 01420 22922 nial.dunne@sky.com
Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 541
Website: <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 617814
or mob: 07747878392

Binsted Football Club

Secretary: Tim Winkworth binstedfootball@gmail.com

Friends of Binsted School (FOBS)

[@FOBSBinsted](https://www.facebook.com/FOBSBinsted) 01420 23200 or
fobs.binsted@gmail.com
Chairman: Alice Cowie

April Services

2nd April **8am** Froyle Holy Communion
Palm Sunday **9:30am** Bentley Morning Worship
with Children's Church 🌸
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

6th April **5:30pm** Froyle Choral Reflection
Maundy Thursday **7pm** Bentley Passover Meal 🌸

7th April **11am** Kingsley Prayer service
Good Friday **12 noon** Binsted Good Friday Mediation

9th April **5:45am** Bentley Sunrise Holy Communion
Easter Sunday **9:30am** Bentley Family Easter Sunday Holy Communion 🌸
9:30am Binsted Easter Sunday Holy Communion
11am Froyle Easter Sunday Holy Communion
11am Kingsley Easter Sunday Holy Communion

16th April **9:30am** Bentley Holy Communion
11am Froyle Morning Worship

23rd April **9:30am** Binsted Holy Communion
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
5pm Bentley Live@5 YumYum 🌸
6:30pm Froyle Evensong

30th April **11am** Bentley Benefice Service 🌸

7th May **8am** Froyle Holy Communion
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
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