

OCTOBER 2023

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Notes From The Tower 15

The Lady Of The Woods 24

Binsted Parish Council 26

Bentley Parish Council 30

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

Who is the greatest person in history?

A mighty conqueror or ruler of a massive empire, like Genghis Khan or Queen Victoria? An artist able to manipulate shape and form, like Leonardo Da Vinci or Michelangelo? A thinker able to inspire millions and shape societies, like Karl Marx or Aristotle? Or someone with outstanding compassion and care like Mother Theresa or Mahatma Ghandhi? A few years ago, there was a poll to find the greatest Briton, and our very own Alfred the Great was beaten by Winston Churchill in the final vote.

Who would you say the greatest person in history is?

For me, one person stands alone above all other candidates. Jesus. He rules over the hearts and minds of the largest religion ever seen in history, across every continent and with devoted followers prepared to even risk certain death in their loyalty. He performed miracles with his hands, feeding, healing, caring in works of artistry changing the very lives of those he touched, far more than being moved by a beautiful painting or sculpture. His teachings form the bedrock of our society, that it is the duty of the strong to protect the weak, that all people are born with the inherent dignity of carrying the image of God, that to forgive is far better than to demand for justice, that all of us have made mistakes and are not worthy to cast the first stone to condemn others. His compassion and care inspired others to the build schools, hospitals, hospices and yes even churches.

2000 years after his death and resurrection, Jesus inspires, comforts and confronts us. He once asked his disciples who they thought he was, and Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of God." He accepts these titles and calls Peter blessed for having this insight and understanding. Christianity seems to be on the wane in the West, but in the global south, Africa, Asia and Latin America the church is growing at an exponential rate. We carry the legacy of our Christian history in the roots of our society as the historian, Tom Holland describes in his book "Dominion". Lazily, religion is often cast as in opposition to science in the media, but a look at history shows how many of the greatest minds and scientists were devout Christians "thinking God's thoughts after him" as Einstein put it.

Who is Jesus to you? A figure from history? An irrelevance? The Son of God? Jesus makes extraordinary claims, which, if true, make him the most important person for us to understand and make up our minds about. He said, "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.*" John 14:6.

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We will be running the Alpha Course in the Benefice this autumn and I would like to warmly invite you.

Over a meal, we will be looking at who Jesus is and what Christians believe. We would love to invite everyone, sceptics, doubters, atheists, agnostics and the curious to come along and join our discussion. No position is too hostile, no question too silly. We just want to create a space for open and honest discussion and exploration. You will not be indoctrinated. You will not be forced to join the church! If you find that it's not for you, you are under no compulsion. We would just love to meet you and to hear your point of view.

Please accept this as my personal invitation to you.

May God bless you and keep you and those you love.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle and with responsibility for Kingsley and Oakhanger



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**

ALL WELCOME

(CHILDRENS' TOYS AVAILABLE)



FREE WI-FI



Youth & Children at Ben Bin Fro



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER?

Contact Gemma for
more details:

gemma@benbinfro.co.uk

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 6:30pm Bentley Praise Service (youth+adults)
2	3	4 7pm Upagear (Year 8+)	5 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	6 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve Youth Group (year 5-7)	7	8 9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church (all ages) 6:30pm Kingsley Praise Service (youth+adults)
9	10	11 7pm Upagear (Year 8+)	12 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	13 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	14	15 4pm Froyle Messy Church (families)
16	17	18 7pm Upagear (Year 8+)	19 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	20 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve Youth Group (year 5-7)	21	22 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church (all ages)
23 Half Term	24	25	26	27	28	29 11am Binsted Benefice Service Sam & Gemma's last Sunday

Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Time:

7pm (dinner provided!)

Date:

Thursdays, starting 12th October

Place:

Bentley Church Hall, GU10 5NA

Contact: admin@benbinfro.org

Stay Curious
Try Alpha



GOOD NEWS FROM THE BINSTED BENTLEY AND FROYLE CARE GROUP!

From the 1st September 2023 we will not be requesting donations for local trips. This means that trips to Alton Community Hospital, Chawton Park Surgery, The Wilson Practice, Badgerswood Surgery, Chase Community Hospital, Pinehill Surgery, Crondall New Surgery, Clare Park Hospital, Farnham Hospital, Odiham Health Centre and the Holly Tree Surgery will be free of charge. We are here to assist with lifts for all health related matters so as well as the GP practices and hospitals listed no donation will

be requested for trips to other local health professionals such as dentists, podiatrists, opticians, physiotherapists and audiologists.

If you would like a lift please contact the Care Group on 07775 458873. We are here to help you.

We are also keen to talk to potential new drivers. If you could help to provide this important service please contact our secretary on 01420 590697 or 07740203796.



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Welcome back to all the Binsted children and their families! An especially big welcome to all of our lovely new year R children, who have settled in so well. We all hope you had a wonderful summer holiday! We have absolutely loved receiving all your post cards from all over the world. In the coming weeks we will be talking about our travels, plotting them on a map and sharing all the interesting facts we have learnt over the summer holidays.

We have some exciting things happening at Binsted in the coming weeks. Keys Stage 2 will be beginning a very exciting Eco

challenge with Miss Dewey. More news about that after its launch next week! Beech class are visiting Butser farm later this month to find out more about the Stone Age and Iron Age. Rowan class have had a wonderful first week getting to know their new teacher, Miss Pidden. Soon we will electing our new Young Governors in our classrooms and I know that the children are excited to cast their votes. Good luck to all the candidates!

A massive well done also to all the children who have completed the Hampshire reading Challenge!



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD LOOKING TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2024

We would love to show you round our amazing friendly village school on one of our upcoming Open Mornings to be held on:

Friday 13th October 2023 any time between 9.30 – 11.00 am

or

Thursday 3rd November 2023 any time between 9.30 – 11.00 am

We provide a secure and creative learning environment and pride ourselves on knowing all the children very well. Our children grow in confidence in the strong family atmosphere and are very caring towards each other.

Please contact the school office via adminoffice@binsted.hants.sch.uk or 01420 23200

Binsted CE Primary School, Church Street, Binsted GU34 4NX



Sudoku September Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



Come along to Messy Church!

Messy Church values itself on being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Sunday 15th October at St Mary's Church, Froyle, 4pm

3rd Sundays at 4pm

Swapping each month between Binsted and Froyle

Binsted - Wickham Institute, GU34 4NX

Froyle - St Mary's Church, Froyle, GU34 4LB

(Keep an eye on our website and parish magazines to check the venue)



We have brilliant crafts and activities to get stuck into - you may get messy! Learn Bible stories and how they relate to us today, sing songs and spend time together as a family.

A hot supper will be provided to save you the trouble - yum!

Email: Nick Carter - nick.carter1945@outlook.com



Binsted Churchyard

We are looking for someone to oversee the care of our beautiful churchyard in Binsted.



It is a greatly appreciated and popular space in the heart of the village, containing both the new and old graveyards and Garden of Remembrance. A public footpath runs through the churchyard from the lane into the fields beyond. So, we have many visitors to the churchyard as well as dog walkers and rambles.

It is cared for by a contractor for regular grass mowing and strimming, but also by the church community who hold Spring and Autumn working parties.

Would you consider the role of Overseer, to co-ordinate the care of this important and much loved space that is such an important feature of our village?

Please contact one of the churchwardens for details on:

binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk or
churchwardenbinsted@benbinfro.co.uk

Bentley Harvest Service

You are warmly invited to come and celebrate Harvest Time and give thanks for our farming communities.

St Mary's Church, Bentley
Sunday 8th October 2023
at 9.30 am

Donations of tinned and dried food for the Alton Foodbank would be much appreciated.

For details of items they are currently in need of can be found at <https://alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Join us afterwards for a light brunch

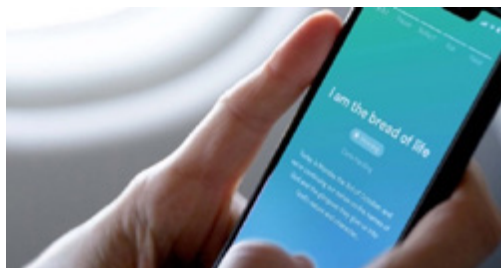
BenBinFro Thought for the Day

Since Covid, we have produced 809 Thought for the Day videos on YouTube! The team behind this have all done an amazing job. Thank you for all the time and effort you have put into this work; it has been enjoyed and appreciated by many. But our collective sense is that this has now had its day. Viewing numbers have fallen to single digits and given the editing time it can no longer be sustained. We are so proud of this achievement but everything has its time and season, we feel now is the time to end Thought for the Day.

For those of you who are concerned or need a daily source of Biblical input there are many good options. Some of these are given below.

Yours thankfully

Christopher and the BenBinFro Team



[Lectio 365 - 24-7 Prayer International](#)
24-7prayer.com



[Bible in One Year](#)
bibleinoneyear.org



[Daily Bible readings](#)
christianaid.org.uk



[Daily reflections](#)
biblesociety.org.uk



[Our notes](#)
bfronline.org.uk

churchofengland.org

Sam Ball Announcement

**After 4 wonderful years at BenBinFro,
God is calling me somewhere new!**

Many of you will know I have been going through the Church of England's ordination process, and without going into the detail, it has been a journey trying to figure out if this was the right path! The diocesan feedback was to further clarify my sense of call to the CofE and as part of that discernment, I started looking at jobs outside the CofE and applied for a job, not really expecting to get it.

Christian Fellowship, an independent Pentecostal church on the outskirts of Portsmouth. It has been a crazy two months or so of gruelling interviews and wonderful God coincidences and He has been with us and in this process from the get go, far too many to say in this short update! My last Sunday at BBF will be the 29th October when we have a benefice service at Binsted, with a start date at PCF on the 13th November.



Gemma is going to continue at BBF as Schools Worker and Media Administrator but reduce her hours slightly so she can come and support me in Portsmouth on Sundays.

As I said, it has been a wonderful 4 years at BBF so it is truly bittersweet to be leaving, and thank you to all of those who have supported and encouraged me over that time, but both

However, God had other plans and so I am very excited, although it's very bittersweet, to say that I have been appointed as the Pastor of Portsmouth

Gemma and I are very excited for this new adventure and challenge that God is calling us to.

Sam Ball



BINSTED VILLAGE
AUTUMN / HARVEST SUPPER
SATURDAY OCT 21ST 2023
@ 7.30 PM

Join us for a homemade cottage pie with crumble dessert supper at the Wickham Institute.

Vegetarian main and gluten free desert options will be available.

Tickets cost £20 per person

To book your tickets, please telephone 01420 23157, email treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk or call in at the Wickham Institute Wednesday morning Coffee Shop.

Why not book a full or part table of up to 8 people and bring some friends!

Net proceeds will be split between the Wickham Institute and Binsted Church Spire/Tower appeal.

Please bring your own drink and there will be some fun fundraising games on the night, so please remember to bring some cash with you.

We look forward to seeing you.

SAVE THE DATE

BENTLEY BONFIRE NIGHT

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2023

CARTERS MEADOW



MORE DETAILS AND TIMINGS TO FOLLOW

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR POSTERS & FLYERS
AROUND THE VILLAGE & ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Helen Curwen wood carvings

You are invited to an exhibition of the wood carvings of
Helen Curwen (Caddick)

at

the Church Hall, St Mary's, Bentley

on

Friday 10th November from 1 pm to 6pm

and

Saturday 11th November from 10am to 1pm.

Entrance is free

Helen will give a talk about her carvings at

7pm Friday 10th

1pm Saturday 11th

Tickets to the talk are £15 (drinks and nibbles included)
to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of St Mary's



Please contact Nick Caddick for tickets

nick.caddick@talk21.com



Some of the Bellringers assembled for a group photograph at Winchester Cathedral

Notes from the Tower

The villagers of Bentley may have heard the bells ringing out on a Monday evening for the last few months.

As part of a nationwide drive to recruit for the Coronation we at Bentley had a large number of new learners join us from across the area.

Bellringing requires a number of hours to handle a bell (it's one thing you can't learn from a book or by watching a video) and it's only recently our latest recruits have started to ring unaided in 'rounds' or as someone recently put... 'the wedding sound'.

What's amazing with our exercise and referring back to the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla, the bells have rung out for every Monarch since Queen Anne in 1702. The same sound then is the identical sound heard today and that's one of the unique features that bells and bellringing provides.

Ringers span in age from 8 to well over 80! Ringers come from all walks of life and it's a great leveller. We have some famous people amongst our ranks! A very popular TV gardening expert lives close-by and enjoys ringing when time permits.

Other famous ringers include a number of well known TV comedians and presenters, a scattering of politicians, a Strictly contestant! an ex Prime Ministers wife and not forgetting the late Victoria Wood and Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman.

If you've ever thought of giving it a go, we have places available to train. We are at St.Mary's Bentley on a Monday from 7pm to 8.30pm they have ringing at Binsted on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm and Froyle on Fridays from 6.30pm and Saturday mornings at Holybourne.

Our towers belong to the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers, where there's over 1500 members from across Hampshire. Our district, called 'Alton & Petersfield' last week held a practice at Winchester Cathedral. Evidently it was the largest number of bellringers in the huge ringing chamber ever recorded with 78 attending.

With the nights drawing in, the thoughts of trying something new, bellringing is a great workout for your body and mind. Many ringers well into their 80's are active busy working on their sequences whilst ringing or thinking of heading down the pub after a practice!

On entering a ringing chamber you will have instant friends, guaranteed! You can visit any church tower across the country and be welcomed.

Although we can't be seen we are very much heard and the glorious sounds pealed out we hope send a message that we call people to our churches, they are alive and well, they are at the heart of a community and that our sound delivers a sense of tradition that remains unchanged in an ever changing world.

We look forward to seeing you and hopefully you hearing regularly from us!

The bellringers of Bentley.

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The Bentley Memorial Hall Association 100+ Club

The winners of the September draw of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

- 1st Adrian & Linda Job
- 2nd Hugh & Suzanne Chissell
- 3rd Peter & Sally Clarke

Congratulations to the winners.

We welcome new members to the 100+ Club. Each number costs £12 per year (£1 per month) and there are three prizes every month!

50% of membership fees go towards the 100+ Club prize fund while the remaining 50% goes to the Memorial Hall to help with our running costs. The more people who join the 100+ Club, the more money paid out in monthly prizes.

If you would like to join, please e-mail a request to bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

For further details, please visit our website www.bentleymemorialhall.org.

Saturday Café – All Welcome



Between 10.30 and 12.30 on most Saturday mornings, there is a community café in the Bentley Memorial Hall.

Come and have a chat and sample the free coffee, tea and cake (payment by voluntary donation). Look out for the banner outside the Hall.



Save the date...

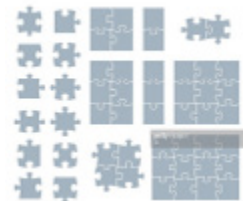
Saturday 2nd December 2023

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Binsted's Annual Christmas Fair

With your help, we would like to make this years' fair a HUGE SUCCESS

Please come with your family and friends to Santa's Grotto organised by FOBS, then purchase your wreath, Christmas gifts, doggy treats, cards, cakes, jewellery, knit wear, etc and enjoy a glass of mulled wine with a mince pie. However, the stall holders would also like your generosity before the fair and donations of the following items



Jewellery, nearly new gifts, chocolates, cakes, jigsaws, tools [only if PAT tested] raffle prizes, mince pies.

Thank you

I look forward to hearing from you.

07799094088

angela1dunne@sky.com

The money raised will go to Binsted School and Holy Cross Church. Please get involved with this community event. Thank you.





Blacknest Fields

Volunteer Work Party



Sunday 29th October 10 - 1pm

Volunteer, make new friends and be part of something special

Help the 'Friends of Blacknest Fields' get several new wildlife projects underway at Blacknest Fields, including:

- planting the disease resistant hybrid elm trees which we have been gifted
- sowing Yellow Rattle seed
- making other habitat improvements



People of all ages welcome and a home-made soup lunch will be provided. Please let us know if you plan to join and we will send you further details:
BNF@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

In the event of inclement weather check out our Facebook page for advice on whether the event will go ahead or not and we will email everyone who has signed up. Due to the nature of the site, long trousers and sensible clothing are advisable #BeTickAware



Blacknest Fields Community Page

Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

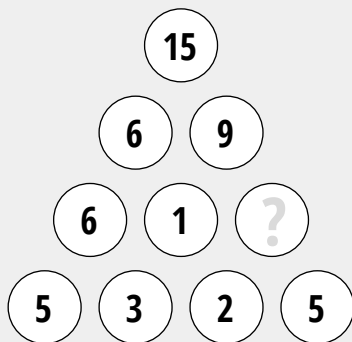
		1	8					
		2			7			
	8	3			6	2		7
		9		5			4	
	3	8		2		1	7	
	4			9		8		
8		7	4			5	3	
			3			7		
					9	6		

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!

Number Pyramid

What is the missing number?



Sudoku game MEDIUM

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

Sudoku game HARD

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



Public Footpath

WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way

Summer returned at the beginning of September, keeping the volunteers of the Binsted Rights of Way team busy with fast-growing vegetation on the footpaths and bridleways of the parish. We had some good news that Hampshire's Countryside Services have approved our request for funding for training on the use of the two electric brushcutters that the team currently has available. At present, only one member of the team has the required training certificate, so it will be really great to be able to spread the load more evenly across the volunteers.

In the last few issues of this magazine, I have mentioned the newly resurfaced section of Bridleway 62 between its

eastern end in Frith End and the end of the Straits Inclosure. This major work was kindly funded by grants from a variety of local organisations, pulled together by the British Horse Society. The official opening ceremony took place on the Bridleway on 6th September. The reopened Bridleway is proving a great hit with local residents and visitors alike, walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Sights are now set on achieving something similarly transformative, but more modest in scale, for another of the local Bridleways which is blighted by a section of deep mud.

The newly resurfaced part of Bridleway 62 looks so impressive, it made the unimproved sections of the same bridleway seem narrow and congested with vegetation by comparison. So, the Binsted volunteers joined forces with

Megan, our HCC Community Ranger, to tackle the next section, which was seriously overgrown with brambles, blackthorn and long grass. At the western end, there is a small bridge across the stream. Looking at the before and after photos, it is almost impossible to see even the handrail of the bridge on the “before”, let alone the bridge itself. The “after” is a revelation, showing a comfortably usable, wide path across the bridge, through the trees and bushes to the next stretch of bridleway up to Wheatley. How satisfying is that?

By the way, look out for Alton’s Autumn Walking Festival, which runs from 16th to 22nd October this year. The Festival hosts a wide variety of walks led by knowledgeable volunteers, some of them members of the Binsted Rights of Way team. There are a variety of walks to suit all abilities and tastes – short strolls or long walks, town walks and family walks, with a number of themed walks, covering foraging, ghosts, trees and more. All walks must be booked and this process started during September – check out the Walk Alton website for details and availability.

The Binsted volunteers are regularly inspecting the parish’s paths, but if you would like to report a problem on any of the Binsted Rights of Way, whether it is a fallen tree, a broken stile, a collapsed fingerpost or simply some overgrown vegetation, 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.



Wheatley House

(between Binsted and Kingsley) GU35 9PA

Garden Open Sunday 1st October 2 – 5pm

Adults £5 and Children free.

Plants, Crafts and Tea in the old barn.

Extensive colourful borders, with amazing views over Alice Holt and beyond.

In aid of the National Garden Scheme - Mainly nursing charities.

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(01420 82802)

OPENING TIMES

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



We are delighted to welcome **Ceramicus** again. They are an established group of local potters based in Surrey and Hampshire. The Exhibition opens on Saturday 7th October - drop in for a meet-the-potters morning. They will be in the Gallery regularly throughout the show to answer questions. A wide range of handmade works will be available to purchase.

FREE. Ends 5th November:

While on the theme of ceramics, we are showing a film on that subject on Saturday 21st October, at 7pm. Details and tickets will be available online or in the Gallery nearer the time.

Half-Term Fun

A make-and-take clay pumpkin session on Tuesday 24th October. Details and tickets online or in the Gallery.

Halloween Pumpkin Trail from 24th - 31st October - there is one also in the Curtis Museum. £2 per trail.

TALK

The Binsted Slides by Andrew Croom-Johnson. This talk introduces us to late 1800s glass slides, made by the then minister of Binsted, of the village and surrounding area. Thursday 12th October at 7.30. FREE. Donations welcome.

This talk has been arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery of whom more below -

The Friends of the Curtis Museum & Allen Gallery help to promote and support both venues. Funds raised at local events have been used to purchase specific items for display, or to improve areas such as the Childhood Gallery in the Curtis and the charming Allen Garden.

Friends enjoy a variety of activities including talks, visits to other venues and social gatherings. Invited speakers cover a wide range of subjects such as painting, photography, local wildlife, history and archaeology. 3 informative newsletters are published each year, and annually an addition to the "Alton Papers" on local history.

Meetings generally take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Gallery in Church Street. Details are in the Newsletter and on posters in the Curtis Museum, Allen Gallery, Library and Community Centre. Annual Subscriptions range from £14 (unwaged adult) to £25 (Corporate).

If you would like to help support these two important local amenities, come along to a meeting or chat to a volunteer, many of whom are Friends. We are always ready to welcome new Friends.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Our next meeting:

Tuesday October 3rd – as usual in the Denis Smith room at the Bentley Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Pauleen Weeks who will give a talk entitled "You, your garden and climate change". A topical subject and of interest to us all.

Visitors are welcome at a charge of £2.

Note for your diary:

Tuesday November 7th – as usual in the Denis Smith room at the Bentley Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Our speaker will be Simon Golsac-Holme who will give a talk on the making of a Public Garden.



The Lady of the Woods

...or so Samuel Taylor Coleridge described the birch.

But which birch? We have two native species in England – the silver birch *Betula pendula* and the downy birch *B pubescens*. Since they grow pretty much anywhere, and freely hybridise, they can be difficult to tell apart. What is unmistakable is the white bark, which gives the silver birch its name, but also marks out all birches from anything else.

These are tough trees, and intrepid too. They are called pioneer trees. They will have been among the first to colonise Britain after the ice age. To this day they are the only tree native to Iceland. And those long shots of birch forest in 'Doctor Zhivago' are true to life. I've seen them as I drove for hours through the Russian countryside (a long time ago, in perestroika times). And yet they are nowhere near as long-lived as some other of our natives. They struggle to attain a hundred years. It's as if they'd rather die young and beautiful.

It's popular these days to make the link between this tree and any silver anniversary. Alton will soon be welcoming visitors from the Italian twinned town of Montecchio Maggiore. The plan is to plant a *Betula pendula*, probably in the Flood Meadows, to commemorate twenty five years of association. In my own family we planted one such in the garden of my in laws on their special day.

Not so common these days is the use of birch branches to make a witch's broom, although there has been resurgence since the publishing of a series of very successful children's books. All I would say is, please make sure the birch branches are firmly lashed to the hazel handle to avoid any unfortunate detachments, and, hence, loss of motive power.

Both downy and silver varieties have small, heart-shaped leaves on slender stalks, which means the leaves droop even if the branches don't. In the gentlest breeze they will rustle as if there is a shower on the way.

Every healthy tree will bear both male and female catkins. The females will fruit, producing loads of tiny, winged seeds, looking like aphids, to be carried away far from mother-father and the competition for light and nutrition.

Like all our native trees, people have discovered a wealth of ways to use every part of the plant. It was believed to be a particularly effective wood for driving out malevolent spirits. Even in my lifetime some reactionaries still advocated 'bringing back the birch' as a form of punishment for misdemeanours. Perhaps less savage, but based on the same belief set, it was the wood of choice for 'beating the bounds', that is demarking the boundaries of each parish.

The bark yields a black tar which was one of the first glues known to man. When the remains of a Neolithic 'ice man' were discovered in the Alps, the tools in his rucksack showed traces of this tar.

Now an extract from the bark known as betulinic acid is exciting modern pharmaceutical interest.

But surely birch's longest and strongest hold on us has been its association with fertility and childbirth. The rituals and the talismans are numerous, but the most commonplace has been the maypole, made from a tall straight bole of birch:

'At the top of the pole were crossed hoops decked with small flowers; beneath these came a milk-white zone of Maybloom; then came a zone of bluebells, then of cowslips,

then of lilacs, then of ragged robins, daffodils and so on, till the lowest stage was reached.'

– Thomas Hardy, *The return of the native*, 1878.

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What's new at Binsted Parish Council?

Parish Priority Statement

Thanks to everyone who completed our parish survey this summer – and well done to Jo Hallett, who won the prize draw! Your responses have given us a good cross section of views of how you'd like the parish to evolve over the coming years. Our 'Local Plan Working Group' is now using your survey responses to draft Binsted's 'Parish Priority Statement', ready for submission to the South Downs National Park Authority on 20 October. If you're interested in this topic, you're welcome to join our 10 October council meeting, when the draft will be discussed and finalised. The final version will be published on our website after 20 October.

Traffic ...

Many parts of the parish suffered clogged roads and tailbacks during the Jalsa Salana festival in July; and further chaos in August, when A31 westbound closed for resurfacing and HGVs made ill-advised detours through narrow lanes. Further major works lie ahead: Bordon's electricity grid is getting a major upgrade, which means the B3304 will be closed from Sleaford to Alton for 6+ months in 2024.

To help ensure that local concerns get properly factored into future plans, we are joining traffic planning liaison meetings, both for the electricity grid work, and for Jalsa Salana. We'll use our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/BinstedParish/>) to keep you updated and share useful information.

Bridleway 62 - transformed!

The 'Grand Opening' of Bridleway 62 took place in September, celebrating the completion of the second and final phase of resurfacing work. Known for many years as 'the Dire Straits', the bridleway through Frith End's 'Straits Inclosure' was previously famous for its impassable mud, even in high summer. It's fantastic that this route has now been completely resurfaced and is now an absolute pleasure to use. Big thanks to the British Horse Society who led fundraising efforts to bring about this much-needed transformation.



Can you help? We're searching for two new councillors ...

After the resignation of Councillors Val Moynan and Nicola Hall this summer, we have two Councillor vacancies. We particularly want to find residents from Bucks Horn Oak, Holt Pound, Rowledge, Isington or Station Road Bentley, which are areas not currently represented on the council team. We'd also love to hear from anyone with a background or interest in planning applications. Get in touch with Mike or Alison if you're interested in joining the team.

Mike Mordecai, Clerk - clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk 07483 310631

Alison Melvin, Chair - a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk 07851 677057

www.binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/BinstedParish/>

Christmas Cards

Christmas is fast approaching!



We are delighted to have our Christmas cards ready for sale.



This year we are once again using sketches and drawings of Holy Cross Church from two very talented artists in our village – Pam Smith and Sue Beyfus.



The cards will be on sale at the weekly Wickham Coffee Mornings each Wednesday, at our Christmas Fair on 2nd December



or can be obtained from



Stella Croom-Johnson on 07740861256
(binstedwarden@benbinfro.co.uk)



August 2023

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

27.6°C (23rd) to 15.9°C (31st)

Only 8 days above 25°C



Nighttime minimum

5.4°C (27th) to 16.7°C (18th)

14 nights below 10°C

Rainfall



Total for month

2.17 inches (55.2 mm) over 8 days



Wettest days

0.61 inches (15.2 mm) (18th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South West



Maximum gust

17 mph (5th)



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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

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

September

1st prize Sam Barrow

2nd prize David Rogers

3rd prize Penelope Kennedy

Details of the October 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

Accidents at Bentley Crossroads



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

During this summer Bentley Parish Council have held meetings and corresponded with Hants Highways in an effort to, hopefully, bring an end to the spate of traffic accidents at Bentley Crossroads. As many of you will be aware the most recent accident, on 30th July, brought to everyone's attention the danger, not only to motorists but also, to pedestrians.

At the beginning of June, following earlier accidents, the Parish Council met with Hants Highways. We discussed the potential causes of these accidents and outlined a number of actions that could improve the junction. In a meeting last week, after further correspondence, we discussed causal analysis work that the County Council's traffic and safety teams have performed through their access to the Police's accident database. Their conclusion is that the majority of contributing factors in the current Bentley Crossroads accident record do not relate to the layout of the junction. However, they have proposed a number of changes and repairs that will raise the visibility of the junction for traffic approaching from all four directions.

These improvements will be to signing and road markings. At our Parish Council meeting this week councillors reviewed and approved the proposed changes, and Hants Highways will now begin work. In terms of the order of the works, the aim is to implement the signing first with the line marking following as soon as achievable thereafter. We are hopeful that these works can commence within the next two months, although some of the work is weather dependent.

John Fuller

Chairman, Bentley Parish Council



Autumn Word Search

ACORN

N M F X R R P F V M I T

LEAF

H B J P Z B U S W R I C

PINECONE

B B F S L O M Q E V S I

MUSHROOM

Y D M E R N P U L I Y G

PUDDLES

Z D E O P F K I L M U D

PUMPKIN

R G C H U I I R I U F H

SQUIRREL

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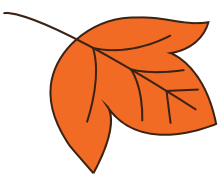
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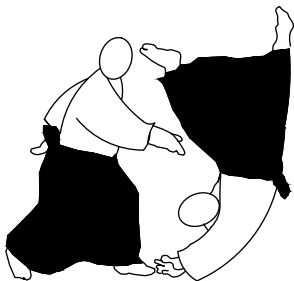
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GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

BENTLEY

Website: www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Memorial Hall

(Bentley Memorial Hall Association):
Malcolm Macnaghten Tel. 01420 521291
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

Phillip Davies
Email phillip.davies@easthants.gov.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: Vicky Hallett 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

District Council

Phillip Davies
Email phillip.davies@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 Mike Mordecai
Email: clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: Binstedparishcouncil.org.uk
Facebook: [@Binstedparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/Binstedparishcouncil)

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)

fobs.binsted@gmail.com

October Services


Our service pattern has changed so please take careful note of the times and locations of our upcoming services.

1st October 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion
6:30pm Bentley Praise

8th October 8am Binsted Holy Communion
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship
& Children's Church 
11am Froyle Holy Communion
6:30pm Kingsley Praise

15th October 9:30am Froyle Morning Worship
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
4pm Froyle Messy Church 



22nd October 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion
& Children's Church 
11am Binsted Morning Worship
6:30pm Froyle Evensong

29th October 11am Binsted Benefice Service

Children's Provision

While all of our services are family friendly, the services indicated are especially catered towards children.

www.benbinfro.co.uk
admin@benbinfro.org
01420 23339



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