

DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Christingle 09

Christmas For Families 12

Binsted Parish Council 24

Bentley Parish Council 26

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

When does Christmas start? Each family will have different traditions for when the Christmas tree goes up or the lights are hung. A week before Christmas? 2 weeks? The beginning of December? Which are you? Shops start stocking Christmas merchandise in September and the retail machine really begins to roll after Halloween. Christmas is a major event in our national economy and is used by analysts to work out financial confidence and impacts Government budgetary thinking. The question I would like to ask is whether we start too soon?

Office Christmas parties, social events and drinks add to December becoming a very social, and potentially expensive time of year. For families struggling to budget, it is very difficult, with the weight of social expectation meaning that many go into debt. In terms of the Church, we have lost any real sense of Advent as a season. Running for the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas Day, Advent traditionally is a fast, a season of reflection and peaceful preparation before the feast of Christmas. It is a time to remember and anticipate that, as the Creed puts it, Jesus, “will come again to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.” During Advent, the role of the prophets to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, and his return, are examined.

Christmas doesn't start until Christmas Eve. Then with all those prophesies ringing in our ears, we read of a hill at nighttime and suddenly angels appearing to shepherds. “Don't be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Saviour – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born tonight in Bethlehem.” The suddenness of this announcement is lost to us, with our 3 months of retail advertising. Then the Feast of Christmas is celebrated for 12 days and should be the time for carol singing, visiting family, presents and Yule logs. A season of joy and not just 24 hours. I know people who take down the tree on Boxing Day. It's all over and done for another year. We seem to have lost the experience of extended joy and celebration which would take us through the New Year. Then we have Epiphany, the Feast of Light on 6th January where we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men and that Jesus is for all the nations of the world.

Retail and finance seem to have warped our experience of Christmas and it is very different from how it would have

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been celebrated in Britain just a handful of generations ago. Economists look to evidence of consumer spending (and we all spend too much, I'm sure you'll agree). Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England 1993-2003, once said that the results of Christmas won't be known until Easter. I don't think he was intending a theological point when he said those words, but he was absolutely correct. The Good News of Christianity is that God has taken on flesh and lived among us as a real person, born in the humblest of settings, but also that our Saviour has died to take our sins on himself and set us free.

However you spend your Christmas, whether it be short, or long. We would love to invite you to come to our services, and there will be something for everyone. More importantly, we pray for God's richest blessing to be on you and your loved ones, throughout the festive season and into 2024. May the Prince of Peace rule in our hearts and in our world.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

Church Registers

Bentley

Sunday 8th October	Baptism of Ella Brigstocke
Sunday 8th October	Baptism of Dominic Roach
Monday 30th October	Funeral of Rodney Knight

Binsted

Friday 6th October	Interment of Ashes of George Cowdrey
Sunday 22nd October	Baptism of Riley Hammerton

Froyle

Sunday 15th October	Baptism of Maverick Drake
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WHAT'S ON IN DEC & JAN?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	1 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	2	3 6:30pm Bentley Praise Service (youth+adults)
4 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	5	6	7 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	8 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve Christmas Pizza Party! (year 5-7)	9	10 9:30am Bentley Children's Church (all age) 6:30pm Kingsley Praise Service (youth+adults)
11 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	12	13	14	15 6pm Binsted's The Real Nativity (families)	16	17 6pm Bentley Carols in the Memorial Hall (families)
18 Christmas Hols	19 5:45pm Binsted Village Carol Singing (families)	20	21 6pm Froyle Flying Carols (families)	22	23	24 4pm Bentley Christingle 5:30pm Froyle Crib Service
25 9:30am Bentley Family Christmas Day Service	26	27	28	29	30	31
1st Jan 2024	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	9	10	11 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	12 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	13	14
15 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	16	17	18 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	19 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	20	21
22 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	23	24	25 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	26 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	27	28
29 6:30pm UNITED @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	30	31				



The Real Nativity

**Friday 15th December
Cricket Pavilion at Binsted Rec
6pm**

We're very excited for the return of this amazing event after a break due to Covid.

This Christmas join us for a festive evening following the Christmas story as we walk through Binsted and finishing up at the church. Wrap up warm, it's likely to be a chilly evening, and bring a torch!

Join us afterwards for Christmas Refreshments.

If you would like to be involved (in costume or behind the scenes), please contact Andy Gill (by text message please) on 0771 3316391.



Sam & Gemma's Last Sunday

On the 29th October we said goodbye to Sam and Gemma! Binsted church was packed and it felt like such a special occasion. Sam and Gemma have been with us for just over 4 years, entertaining us through Covid, leading us in worship and engaging with our wonderful schools, children and young people, and now they are off to Portsmouth to lead a church and continue God's work down there.



During the service Sam and Gemma were invited to the front to not only embarrass them (okay not really!), but to give gifts including chocolate,

prosecco and Haribo, and a very generous sum of money donated by many in the church family. The church wardens and other significant people who have worked closely with Sam and Gemma joined them up the front to lay hands and pray which was such a special moment.

Sam is now taking a well-earned break before starting his new role as Pastor at Portsmouth Christian Fellowship in November, and Gemma will still be with us working in the office and in school until she goes on maternity leave in the spring.

Please do continue to pray for Sam and Gemma, and Ball no.3 due in spring, as they follow God's direction and start to navigate life in a new area as a growing family of 3.

Blessings,
The BenBinFro Team



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

At Binsted School, Rowan Class have had a very busy start to the Year! We have enjoyed researching about the Great Fire of London and produced some fantastic silhouette art work depicting the raging flames of the fire. The children used tissue paper or paint and then cut black card to form the silhouettes. Many children visited the local libraries to get books about the Great Fire of London and some children even went to London to see where the fire started on Pudding Lane and also climbed the 311 steps to the top of The Monument, gaining a certificate at the end.



Rowan class have been learning about the months of the year and exploring the signs and changes of autumn. Every pupil in Rowan class read a line of a poem about autumn during the Harvest Celebration. We have been collecting conkers, horse chestnuts, acorns, leaves and other autumn delights and really loved observing different squashes and seasonal vegetables.

We finished this half term with a whole school visit to Arundel Wetlands Centre. The last day of term was forecast as being rather wet and windy, as the whole country was subject to Storm Babet. We were very lucky with the weather and had glorious sunshine for most of the day and many of us were walking around in a t-shirt! We loved the boat ride, pond dipping and watching the pelicans flap their wings.



Sunday 21st January 2024 4pm - in Froyle Froyle Village Hall, GU34 4LG

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



Christingle



Christmas Eve

4pm
St Mary's Church, Bentley

Come along for some family Christmas fun, learn the true meaning of Christmas, and receive your own Christingle orange!





Advent by Candlelight

Friday 1st December
St Mary's Church, Froyle
6:30pm

Come along to our beautiful Advent by Candlelight service in Froyle to kickstart the Advent season and get into the Christmas spirit. Usually on the Saturday before the 1st Sunday of Advent, we've changed the date this year to be on the Friday.

An evening full of carols, choral performances and the re-telling of the Christmas Story followed on by festive refreshments.

Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

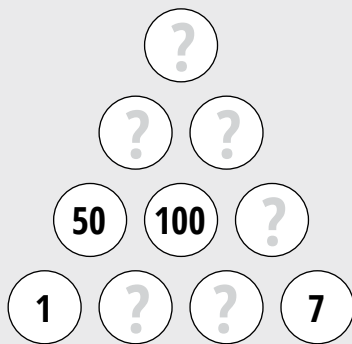
							8	5
	5			8				7
8			3			9	2	
			1				6	8
		2	4		8	7		
4	6				5			
	7	5			9			4
3				4			9	
9	1							

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 are the missing numbers?



Sudoku game MEDIUM

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

Sudoku game HARD

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



Christmas for kids and families

@ BenBinFro

Friday 15th December

6pm Binsted's The Real Nativity

Sunday 17th December

6pm Bentley Carols at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 19th December

5:45pm Binsted Village Carol Singing
(meet at the church)

Thursday 21st December

6pm Froyle Flying Carols
(6pm @ Miller Lane playground, Upper Froyle
6:45pm @ Froyle Village Hall)

Christmas Eve

4pm Bentley Christingle
5:30pm Froyle Crib Service

Christmas Day

9:30am Bentley Family Christmas Day Service

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The Bentley Memorial Hall Association 100+ Club

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

1st Bruce & Lizzie Powell

2nd Chris Holmes

3rd Helen Curwen

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.



Carol Singing

@ BenBinFro

Sunday 17th December

6pm Bentley Carols at the Memorial Hall

6:30pm Froyle Carol Service

Tuesday 19th December

5:45pm Binsted Village Carol Singing
(meet at the church)

Wednesday 20th December

6:15pm Oakhanger Village Carol Singing
(6:15pm @ Oakhanger Village Hall,
7:30pm @ St Mary Magdalene's Church)

Thursday 21st December

6pm Froyle Flying Carols
(6pm @ Miller Lane playground, Upper Froyle,
6:45pm @ Froyle Village Hall)

...join us at

UNITE




AT THE KING'S ARMS
5A VICARAGE HILL
ALTON

Meeting every Monday
6.30 - 8.00pm
Term time.

FOOD, CHAT, GAMES, BIG QUESTIONS,
FAITH, PRAYER AND MORE FOR 11-18
YEAR OLDS.

FREE

THE KING'S ARMS



Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

The parish magazine for Bentley & Binsted is distributed to all the houses in our two villages.

Most of the costs for producing the magazine come from advertising revenues, but we are still left with a shortfall of close to £2,000 every year, which Bentley and Binsted PCCs need to cover.

It costs us around £1 to produce each copy of the magazine and we publish 10 editions per year. If you feel that you are able to contribute towards the costs of producing the magazine, please contact magazine treasurer at bentleytreasurer@benbinfro.co.uk or you can donate online by either:

- scanning the QR code below
- or go direct to our donations page at: <https://tinyurl.com/2tv9rtxu>.



Thank you for helping us keep the magazine as something for everyone in Bentley and Binsted.

We have been really busy here at Bentley CE Primary School during the autumn term. Here are some of our highlights:

Competitions

The Year 5 and 6 rugby team took part in a rugby competition at Amery Hill school with lots of other schools in the local area. The team played really well in the first external sporting event of the school year and demonstrated great sportsmanship, coming third overall.

Four children from Year 5 and 6 represented the school in 'The Logic Cup', a mathematical challenge at Lord Wandsworth College. There was a quiz with five rounds containing various maths puzzles, a maths trail and a fast paced maths relay! The children worked fantastically together and loved having the opportunity to take part.

Educational Visits

We have been on lots of visits to take our learning out of the classroom.

Year 2 learned all about the life of Florence Nightingale on their visit to the Royal Victoria Hospital. The children dressed up as nurses and soldiers to find out more about how Florence improved hospitals at the time of the Crimean War.

Year 3 visited the Gordon Brown Centre to take part in activities such as den building and a sensory nature walk.

Year 4 enjoyed their visit to the Arundel Wetland Centre where they learned all about the wildlife that inhabits wetland areas, took part in pond dipping, went on a boat ride and sketched the river.

Harvest Festival

The children participated in our Harvest Festival service, led by Revd Matt Boyes, where they shared harvest poems, art work and prayers. Generosity was the Christian value we had been focusing on during the autumn term and this was demonstrated by the generous offerings of food the children brought in to donate to the Alton Food Bank.

Eco-Schools

Here at Bentley we are all passionate about nature and protecting our wonderful world. Last year's Eco-Council started a litter picking project to try to reduce litter in our local area. They created litter picking backpacks which contain reusable gloves and a bag, a foldable litter picker and a notebook to record how many bags of litter have been collected. To support us in this work, Young ACAN (Alton

Climate Action Network) presented this year's Eco-Council with 20 foldable litter pickers, courtesy of an EHDC grant from Cllr Ginny Boxall, to add to the litter picking backpacks.

We have also signed up to take part in the National Education Nature Park. This is a national project which has been commissioned by the DfE and is led by the Natural History Museum. The project was officially launched in our Eco lessons with an activity called 'Hidden Nature' where the children were encouraged to look for less obvious signs of nature in the school grounds. We found everything from ladybird larva to maggots burrowed inside acorns!

We have lots more to look forward to in the next few weeks, especially our Christmas productions and our Christmas Fair. If you would like to know more about our school or would like to visit, then please do get in touch. We always welcome visitors and the children are keen to show how proud they are of their school. We have a few spaces in various year groups across the school so, if you are looking for a school place for your child, or know someone who is, why not come and visit us? We would love to meet you!

Mrs Becky Miffing
Acting Headteacher



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



HISTORY PRESERVED IN ALLEN GALLERY PROJECT

L-R: Object handling and cleaning at the Allen Gallery; an Ignis statue made in London and dated 1679; object section in Winchester; Palissy dish, crafted around 1630, from the studio of French ceramicist Bernard Palissy; photographing the ceramic collection; a Popish Plot tile, likely made by Jan Ariens van Hamme in Vauxhall, London, in 1679-80.

Supported by funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Allen Gallery in Alton is undergoing a transformational journey. Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), which operates the Gallery, is coming to the end of the development phase of the project, Rediscovering the Allen Gallery. During this phase, HCT has been revealing and sharing some of the untold stories of the ceramic collections housed at the Allen Gallery and in wider storage at the Trust's stores in Winchester. The project aims to refurbish the Allen Gallery and better showcase the nationally and internationally important ceramics collection, which is being researched, audited and photographed by a team of staff, volunteers and interns.

Since the project began at the start of 2023, over 5,000 out of a total of 7,000 objects in the extensive collection have been inventoried by the dedicated team, with more than 2,400 objects now photographed. These images will be added to the Trust's online collections, giving general access to these historical treasures. HCT has been working in partnership with the University of Southampton, the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham, and Kingston University.

The collection boasts an astounding array of ceramic objects from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, including exquisite Chinese and

European pieces. It is widely recognised for its vast scope and exceptional quality, with some specialists likening it to a miniature Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A). The collection is also a comprehensive academic resource, showcasing the stylistic and technological evolution of English ceramics from its origins with Bernard Leach, regarded as the 'father of British studio pottery', and featuring works by influential figures such as Hans Coper, Lucie Rie, Michael Cardew and Siddig el Nigoumi. Highlights include a Palissy dish, crafted around 1630, from the studio of French ceramicist Bernard Palissy, and a Popish Plot tile, likely made by Jan Ariens van Hamme in Vauxhall, London, in 1679-80. This is an example of a very early English tin-glazed tile that played a pivotal role in introducing this craft to England. A further treasure, an Ignis statue, made in London and dated 1679, is considered to be among the top 20 pieces of English ceramics due to its uniqueness and flat back design, which has never been recorded in any similar figure.

More information about the Rediscovering the Allen Gallery project and the ceramics collection is available at <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/rediscovering-allen-gallery>.

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

EXHIBITIONS

Allen Gallery Main Exhibition Space.

An exhibition by **Alton College Graphics and Photography A Level students.**

Continues until 31st December. FREE

Allen Gallery Cafe area.

Contemporary Needlework - a display of work by local textile artist **Hilary Kimber.**

Until 10th December, FREE.

TALKS

There is no talk in December or January, but the February talk on **Thursday February 8th at 7.30** will be given by **Tony Cross**, sometime Curator at the Curtis and Allen, on the subject of **Memorials. FREE.**

Tony says -

This presentation will be of interest to anyone engaged in local history and aims to provide an awareness of memorials and their importance in commemorating the lives and achievements of notable people with connections to Hampshire. A selection of these and their associated stories are included.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Christmas activities up to December 30th include a Festive Trail in both venues;

Patterns on Paper - a drop-in session for making simple paper decorations, (decorations

£2 per sheet); and a Make-and-take activity on small seasonal clay items, Tuesday December 19th. (£5 per session, 10.30 - 11.15 or 11.30 - 12.15.)

Please book via the website. <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery>

Film Nights in the Allen Gallery

It's a Wonderful Life (16th December)
Lunana - or A Yak in the Classroom (20th January).

Films start at 7.00pm, and the cafe will be open for wine and soft drinks from 6.30pm.

Our small and friendly screenings (only 32 tickets per film) are a nice way to see films in the centre of Alton.

Tickets bookable via the website.

CURTIS MUSEUM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Until **December 30th**

A Link to the Past - Help us create the longest paper chain, moving through the years in our museum. FREE.

Create a Cracker – Come and buy, build and fill your own cracker. Cracker 50p, fill it with a hat, joke, snapper and tie, buy a prize to go inside.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



AGM and Christmas social – Tuesday 5th December 2023

All club members are invited to our AGM and Christmas get-together which will take place on Tuesday 5th December 2023 as usual at 7.30pm in the Denis Smith Room at the Bentley Memorial Hall.

Please bring a plate of buffet food to share. Wine and soft drinks will be provided by the club.

For your diaries

Our next scheduled evening meeting will be on Tuesday 6th February 2024. Details will appear in the February Parish Magazine.



Dead trees – new life

Winter is closing in. And, of course, it is a time of dead, rotting things, creepy crawlies and fantastical fungi. That is a cause for celebration.

Examples of deadwood are all around us, whether an ancient, stag-headed tree in a field, logs lying on the floor in your local park, or dead trees just about managing to stay upright within woodlands. Deadwood is part of the final, and arguably most important and interesting part of a tree's life, and the beginning of so much more.

Wood stores a lot of nutrients within its structure. Once a tree, or part of a tree, has reached the end of its life it is decomposed by a complex combination of bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms which breaks it down and releases these nutrients back into the soil. This process is called nutrient cycling and is the building block of all life, feeding new growth of plants, and in turn microorganisms, fungi, insects, birds, amphibians, mammals, and us, in healthy ecosystems. It is essential for new life to form. This is why areas rich in

deadwood, such as our ancient woodlands, are so biodiverse. In fact, more than 2,000 different invertebrate species are dependent on decaying wood to complete their lifecycle. Deadwood houses and feeds some of our most beloved wildlife, from grass snakes and great-crested newts, to green woodpeckers and Bechstein's bats nesting and roosting in hollows and cavities.

The fungal importance of deadwood, and in particular, undisturbed soil where deadwood has been allowed to decay for very long periods of time, is only recently beginning to be understood. Networks of fungal hyphae, tap into the rooting systems of whole communities of trees, allowing the sharing of nutrients to help stressed trees, the sending of signals to warn of predation and assistance when dealing with periods of drought. The role of deadwood and decaying matter within

these networks is massive, feeding whole tree and plant communities with recycled nutrients to be used again.

The way we see deadwood has changed in recent years. Previously, the hollowing out of an old tree was seen as detrimental, but we now know that it is an essential part of the tree's life, using resources stored within the trunk to provide nutrients for the tree in its old age when it might be struggling. It was thought that deadwood, either attached to a tree or on the ground, could negatively impact a tree's health by increasing risk of infection by pests and diseases, and so it was routine practice to remove it. In some cases, this is still necessary, such as removing wood material infected with aggressive forms of honey fungus, but we are now much more

aware of the benefits, in addition to the problems, associated with deadwood.

There has been considerable progress in tackling the issue of 'tidiness' when it comes to managing our public spaces. Habitat piles, bug hotels, natural (deadwood) play equipment, and in-situ deadwood are more commonplace in our parks and gardens today. Tidiness is not the natural way, and over-managed trees and woodlands are poor for biodiversity. Deadwood is essential for our trees' healthy functioning. By incorporating deadwood into our landscapes, we can help our trees live healthy lives and in turn, reap the benefits that healthy trees provide.

Ben Hamlin, *Tree Warden*
binstedtrees@gmail.com

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Alba, Oscar, Benedict and William from Beech class at Binsted Primary School, who completed their triathlon challenge for BBC Children In Need on Friday 3rd November. They have each covered a total distance of 21 miles by swimming, cycling and running in order to cover the distance between England and France across the English Channel. They concluded their challenge with the final mile of running taking place as a whole school event. All the children and staff from Year R up to Year 6 completed the 4 lap run in the rain to support this worthy cause. The children had been treated to Hot Chocolate with marshmallows and whipped cream in the morning and celebrated reaching 'France' at the finish line with a Pain Au Chocolat. We are very proud of this team who have really challenged themselves in order to help others. Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/kerry-wilson-1697048734417>





Update on Traffic Issues in Binsted Parish

First of all a big “Thank You” to everyone who took the time to complete the Parish Survey over the summer. By far the biggest concern highlighted by residents across the parish in the survey was worsening levels of traffic, speeding and accidents, most notably:

- The increase in volumes of traffic, speeding and accidents on the A325 and on the Blacknest Road from Frith End to Bentley crossroads.
- The Jalsa Salana festival and other diversions off the A31/A325 and Kingsley roads creating chaos, disruption and damage on our narrow local roads that are unsuitable for large volumes of traffic and large commercial vehicles.
- Air Traffic - The proposed expansion of Farnborough Airport and the impact of the noise it will generate across the parish.

There are no “quick fixes” on any of these issues, and the Parish Council has no direct authority or powers in this area. However, it is a key priority of the Parish Council to work on your behalf to secure improvements from Hampshire Highways, East Hants District Council and other organisations such as Jalsa Salana and SSE Electricity whose events and projects affect traffic on local roads. We totally understand the strength of local feeling on these subjects.

Our Transport Working Group, which met in early November, has been expanded to create a greater capacity for work on Transport issues, and now includes some non-councillor members. We are also working with other local Parish Councils on cross-border problems; and we very much appreciate the continued support and hard work of County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee on our traffic issues.

Some specific transport items we’ve been working on in recent months include:

- Engaging with Hampshire Highways/County Council to secure traffic calming measures to mitigate Bordon’s expansion on local roads (particularly on A325 and the route from Frith End to Bentley crossroads).
- Engaging with a range of organisations to address safety and speeding concerns, to determine what measures can be taken to improve road safety blackspots

for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and drivers, and to address wider issues associated with verges / footpaths, HGV routing and public transport.

- Joining a working group set up by Jalsa Salana, to ensure that residents' views are heard and minimise traffic disruption in future years. We are working alongside other Parish Councils and District and County Councillors to help ensure a joined-up approach to the festival's licensing and highways aspects, taking residents' concerns into account to ensure the festival's traffic management plans prevent a repeat of the chaos experienced this year.
- Taking part in a group that is looking to minimise the impact of planned lengthy roadworks on the B3004 between Sleaford and Alton through Kingsley, which has the potential to cause disruption to residents through longer journey times and diversions.
- Objecting to planning proposals within the parish we believe could worsen existing transport and traffic issues.
- And making objections to Farnborough Airport's consultation, to try and stop the expansion.

If transport is a subject you're interested in, and you would like to help, we'd love to hear from you! You don't need to be an "expert" or need to commit too much time - a few people giving a couple of hours a month to keep things moving forwards would be hugely appreciated. If you're interested, please contact me on clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk, or call on 07483 310631 to have a chat.

Mike Mordecai, Binsted Parish Clerk.

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

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

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Advent Cards

Don't forget to pick up your pack of Advent cards from church!
Every day there is a new card to read with a great Bible verse
to help us think and pray during the Advent Season.

Update from Bentley Parish Council



Bentley
PARISH COUNCIL

The main issues dominating the village community presently have been the rash of accidents at Bentley crossroads and Farnborough Airport's proposed expansion programme. We had 11 members of the public at our last Parish Council meeting on 9th October, which was great to see.

Crossroads

Our Councillors have been busy chasing up and meeting with Hampshire Highways to discuss preventative measures addressing safety at the crossroads. Analysis by the accident and injuries experts suggested that the junction layout is not a contributing factor. However, plans were discussed to raise the visibility of the junction.

New signage, such as crossroads warning signs, advanced 'Stop' signs and larger speed limit signs have been proposed by Hampshire Highways and agreed by the Parish Council as well as repositioning the Bentley village name plates and the southern approach to the junction upgraded to STOP. Hampshire Highways have informed us that these should be in situ by the time you read this article. Yellow lines prohibiting parking around the Memorial Hall which will increase visibility at the junction to traffic approaching from the Froyle direction, will take longer due to

a statutory process required, including a public consultation.

Farnborough Airport

Farnborough Airport's proposed expansion is concerning, particularly as Bentley is situated on the main take-off path. The existing permission is for 'business flights' but it is clear that much of the air traffic from Farnborough is weekend leisure flying with many of the destinations served by commercial flights from London airports.

The airport are looking to increase the number of flights from 50,000 to 70,000 per year, with a significant proportion of flight increases intended for weekends. As a Bentley resident, you have probably received a leaflet in the post, used by the applicant to demonstrate they have conducted a public consultation. If you want to object, it is important that you do so as the sponsor will claim that the public consultation demonstrated that the proposal had public support.

Comments should have been received by 18th October, but you will have another opportunity to make a comment when the planning application is made to Rushmoor Borough Council, and we will help with suggested wording.

As an effort to reach and improve communication with all residents on such issues we have set up a Bentley Residents Action email distribution list. If you'd like to receive information on topics such as Farnborough Airport, please subscribe: bentley-residents-action@googlegroups.com.

Recreation Ground

Bentley Archers Cricket and Sports Club (BACSC) and the Parish Council are busy negotiating terms of the lease on the Recreation Ground. BACSC intend to improve the quality of the ground and install a new cricket square. The lease will allow them to obtain external funding for the project. As well as cricket during the summer months the club will run junior football during the winter season. We believe this venture is going to be of great benefit to many residents of the village.

Speaking of the Recreation Ground, our Play Area has had its annual inspection and all elements scored 'Low risk' and 'Very low risk' so no further major works needed (please inform the Clerk to report any if noticed). We're aiming to have it cleaned and any repairs completed annually.

Bentley Station

Next month a couple of Councillors will be attending a meeting in Aldershot to discuss Bentley Station, in particular Community Rail opportunities. There are gardening

grants as well as opportunities to use the two redundant buildings at the station. Even though Bentley Station falls under Binsted Parish, we hope to work alongside them to improve and make use of funding support.

Council Business

Our Parish Council meetings are on the 2nd Monday of every month and residents are welcome to attend. The meeting agenda is posted on all village noticeboards and on our website on the Wednesday before the meeting.

We will be looking to co-opt a new Councillor shortly so keep your eyes peeled for notices. We're always short of women applying so if you want the Council to represent a good cross section of residents please apply! Having said that, all applications are very welcome.

Please visit us on: www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk where all agendas and minutes are available to view as well as local news, and sign up to our Facebook page for up to date information around the village. Any questions, please contact: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Emma Wadey

Clerk & RFO, Bentley Parish Council

clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

For further information on the parish council and parish events please go to www.bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way

Although still mild, late October and the start of November heralded the return of heavy rain and at least one major storm with strong winds. It meant that the volunteers of the Binsted Rights of Way team have still been busy with cutting back vegetation on the rather muddy footpaths and bridleways of the parish, but were also on the lookout for fallen trees. The funding grant received from Hampshire County Council has been used to book three members of the team on a training course on the safe use of powered brushcutters in January 2024. So, we will be better prepared for action in the spring and summer of next year.

The recently resurfaced section of Bridleway 62, between its eastern end in Frith End and the end of the Straits Inclosure, is now six months old. As we brace ourselves for another rainy winter, it will be interesting to see whether it holds up as well as the sections that were resurfaced several years ago. The initial signs are good, with new ditches and drainage ensuring that the parts that used to regularly get flooded have remained easily passable. Only time (and the weather) will tell, so we will reassess again in the Spring. This project was such a hit with all Bridleway users – walkers, horse riders and cyclists alike - that we were inspired to achieve something similarly transformative, but more modest in scale, for another of the local Bridleways which is blighted by a section of deep mud, particularly in winter.

Bridleway 41 runs from the Blacknest Road, just north of the Jolly Farmer, past Blacknest Fields – our local site for nature recovery and community greenspace – and along the forest edge all the way up to Bucks Horn Oak. As well as linking up with the Shipwright’s Way and the Alice Holt forest east of the A325, it’s also a useful route from Bucks Horn Oak down to Blacknest Fields. There is a section at the forest edge, which has always been problematic due to deep mud, which can persist all year round. Binsted Parish Council were successful in applying to HCC Countryside Services for funding to improve the bridleway and it turned out that the contractor wanted to start the project almost immediately. It all happened so quickly, the newly resurfaced section was ready for the Volunteer Day at Blacknest Fields at the end of October. The Rights of Way team turned out to make a final clearance of the holly and other vegetation that reduce the usable width and height of the bridleway, then joined the other volunteers at Blacknest Fields for some further work, followed by hot soup and cake – all highly sociable! I hope you get a chance to enjoy using the bridleway in the near future.

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.





October 2023

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

25.3°C (9th) to 11.8°C (29th)

7 days above 20°C and 8 days below 15°C



Nighttime minimum

-2.8°C (14th) to 14.4°C (11th)

23 nights below 10°C with 2 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

2.86 inches (72.6 mm) over 18 days



Wettest days

0.54 inches (13.6 mm) (28th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South West



Maximum gust

20 mph (13th)



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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

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

November

1st prize Roz Kohler

2nd prize Catherine Hadfield

3rd prize Dennis Smith

Details of the December 2023 and January 2024 draws 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

COME DINE WITH BENTLEY

17th February 2024

3 course meal with wine

£25 per head



This is a wonderful way to get to know some new people in the village and have a fun social evening.

You can sign up as a couple or come on your own and mix in.

We are raising money for St. Mary's Church, Bentley
our lovely 12th C village church
which is in need of repair.

We shall meet at the Memorial Hall for a glass of fizz.
You will then find out where you will be going to have supper.

For more information or to book your place please contact:

Linda Fuller lindafuller1105@gmail.com

Jenny Turner jennyathome61@gmail.com

Libby May tony.libby.may@gmail.com



2pm -4pm

Binsted Christmas Fair Saturday 2nd December

In the Wickham Institute and Holy Cross Church

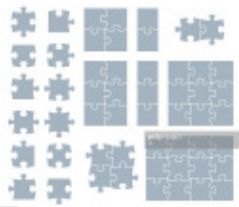
Friends of Binsted School will be organising Santa's Grotto and there will be new stalls as well as the old favourites in the WI and inside the Church

Please support this community event as funds will be going towards Binsted Church and Binsted School

Offers of homemade cakes, chocolates, jewellery, mince pies, nearly new gifts, tools [pat tested], jigsaws and raffle prizes are needed....

Please can you help on a stall

contact angel1dunne@sky.com 07799094088



**Christmas wreaths available for pre order
and will on sale at the Fair**

Small £15 Medium £20 Large £25

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 (and Christmassy candles) 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)



Sudoku November Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



Christmas at 2nd Bentley Scouts

Thank you to all those that supported the Fair and Coffee Shop on the 11th at Bentley Memorial Hall. The Scouts made a good contribution to our new tent fund. There was some wonderful local craft talent on show and I hope some of you will be receiving some specially selected, locally crafted gifts this Christmas! Thanks to the Memorial Hall Committee and the coffee shop team for the fantastic refreshments throughout the day, I think for many of us it was the first mince pie of the season! Special thanks to Charlotte, Charlotte, Ella and Lucy, together with Maria that came along to help us with the raffles.

Moving in to December we are hoping to have Father Christmas visit the village on his cycle sleigh on the 11th December so watch the social media locally to get a confirmation. This is now supported by Alton Lions, if anyone locally would like to get involved please contact us.

I know all the sections will be looking forward to their Christmas celebrations, so we would like to take the opportunity to thank the community for all their support over the last 12 months and we wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas time.

Melissa and the 2nd Bentley Scout
Group Team 07974377736



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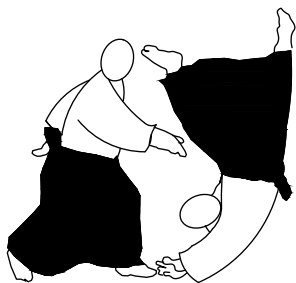


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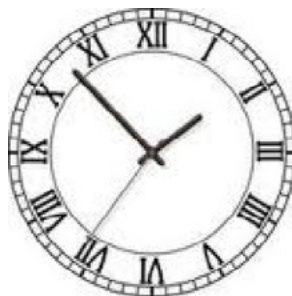
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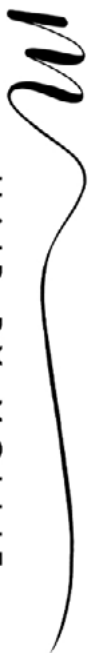
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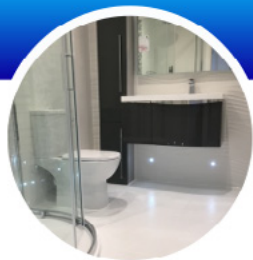
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GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

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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:

binsted.growmore.secretary@gmail.com

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



December & January Services

For a FULL list of our Christmas services and events, please see the Christmas card enclosed.

3rd December 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion
6:30pm Bentley Praise

10th December 8am Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church ★
11am Froyle Holy Communion
6:30pm Kingsley Praise

17th December 11am Kingsley Holy Communion
6pm Bentley Carols (Memorial Hall) ★
6:30pm Froyle Carol Service

24th December 11am Binsted Holy Communion
Christmas Eve 4pm Bentley Christingle ★
5:30pm Froyle Crib Service ★
10pm Froyle Midnight Communion
10pm Oakhanger Midnight Communion
11:30pm Binsted Midnight Communion
11:30pm Bentley Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 9:30am Bentley Family Christmas Day Communion ★
9:30am Binsted Traditional Christmas Day Communion
11am Froyle Traditional Christmas Day Communion
11am Kingsley Traditional Christmas Day Communion

31st December 11am Bentley New Year's Eve Service
New Year's Eve

7th January 2024 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion
11am Oakhanger Holy Communion
6:30pm Bentley Praise

14th January 8am Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church ★
11am Froyle Holy Communion
6:30pm Kingsley Praise

21st January 9:30am Froyle Morning Worship
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
4pm Froyle Messy Church ★

28th January 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church ★
11am Binsted Morning Worship
6:30pm Froyle Evensong



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