FEBRUARY 2024

Bentley&Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

"The quality of mercy is not strain'd.

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

This speech by Portia in Shakespeare's, The Merchant of Venice, is famous for its description of the power of mercy. Mercy blesses both the giver and the receiver of mercy.

When I was at school, there was a favourite playground game that consisted on interlacing your fingers with someone else and attempting to squeeze and bend their wrists back until one person said "mercy". Hopefully, this has fallen into disuse! Unfortunately, it seems that the whole term is one rarely heard these days. Perhaps it implies a weakness on the part of the person who invokes it, and we forget Shakespeare's assertion that it blesses both parties.

In the toxic online world of social media, perhaps we need to invoke mercy more often when comments are too hurtful or personal. Perhaps the keyboard warriors who hide behind a nom de guerre, might pause to reflect on the impact of their comments?

Mercy sounds a weak word, especially in the light of someone asserting their rights or their truth. Yet mercy contains hidden depths. It's root in English is from the Medieval Latin merces meaning "the price has been paid", or "the transaction is successful". There is nothing else required, both parties can walk away free of any other responsibility or commitment. Our response perhaps then is quite naturally to give thanks, which is why thank you in French, is merci.

One writer in the Bible says, "So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help" (Hebrews 4:16). Grace is when you receive something you don't deserve, and mercy is when you do not get what you do deserve. God does this for his people through Jesus, who has paid the price for our wrong doing, so there is nothing left to pay by us.

I think it's time to bring back mercy. It's something we could all do with more of in our lives. May God bless you and yours.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle

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On Ash Wednesday we have two Holy
Communion services with the imposition of ashes
(marking your forehead with a cross of ash).
Join us for either of these reflective services as we
mark the start of Lent.



9:30am Froyle 6:30pm Binsted ASH WEDNESDAY
ASH WEDNESDAY
ASH WEDNESDAY
ASH WEDNESDAY
ASH WEDNESDAY

Church Registers

Binsted

Monday 11th December Funeral and Burial of Anne Yoemans

Tuesday 19th December Wedding blessing of John & Linda

Froyle

Thursday 30th November Funeral and Burial of Paul Birch
Thursday 28th December Funeral and Burial of Nigel Mills

Monday 30th October Funeral of Rodney Knight

Youth & Children at Ben Bin Fro





WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	2 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	3	4
5 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	6	7	8 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	9 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	10	11 9:30am Pentley Morning Worship & Children's Church (year R-6)
12 Half term	13	ASH WEDNESDAY	15	16	17	18 4pm Binsted Messy Church (families)
19 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	20	21	22 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)	23 12:30pm Bentley lunchtime club with Gemma (in school) 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	24	25 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church (year R-6)
26 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	27	28	29 12:30pm Binsted lunchtime club with Gemma (in school)			



Sunday 18th February

4-6pm

Wickham Institute,

Binsted





four twelve

YOUTH CLUB / SCHOOL YEARS 5-7

WHEN?

FRIDAY EVENINGS - 5-6:30PM

WHERE?

BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS HALL.

WHAT?

FUN & GAMES, SHORT BIBLE TEACHING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, TUCK SHOP.

1 Timothy 4:12 – "Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life."

gemma@benbinfro.co.uk



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Happy New Year from all at Binsted School! We had a wonderfully festive end of term in December including a whole school trip to the Pantomime, a lovely Nativity performance from our KS1 children and our KS2 Lessons and Carols Service. We also had a Christmas party and Father Christmas made an appearance with a gift for each child.

On Tuesday 2nd January it was the first day back and we have already had a very important visitor to the school. The Archdeacon of Winchester, Richard Brand came to school this morning to talk to the children about Epiphany remembering the visit of the wise men to lesus. He reminded us that through this detail in the Christmas story, we can see the significance of Christ's birth for the whole world. The three kings in



their long journey from far off lands, symbolise the 'epiphany' moment for all mankind – the difference that Jesus' birth makes for those near and far. The three magi are often depicted with various ethnicities and differing ages to represent that Jesus came for all. Richard said a prayer of blessing for the school and Matt made the Epiphany markings around the doorway to symbolise God's blessing on the building and all who enter it. The markings are as follows:

20+C+M+B+24

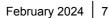
The letters C, M and B have two meanings. Firstly, they represent the names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansion benedicat, "May Christ bless this house". The + signs represent the cross and the 20 and 24 the year. It was a lovely way to start the new year at school with children, staff and parents. All the children were given a piece of chalk to take home in case they would like to do something similar.

We are excited for the new term and look forward to all that 2024 brings. If you are looking for a school place, we

have spaces across the year groups at the moment. We would warmly invite you to make an appointment to visit the school via the office on 01420 23200 and we would be delighted to show you around.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.







School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Binsted School continues to go from strength of strength



Binsted was founded in 1873 as a Church of England school to serve the local community including Binsted, Oakhanger and Kingsley. As we start 2024, we are still a strong good school continuing the tradition of providing a rich and broad curriculum to our pupils.

We are very proud to have received our recent Ofsted report, following an inspection in September. The inspectors wrote:

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils love attending this warm, welcoming and happy school. Staff know all pupils very well. Pupils are well cared for and feel safe. They are rightly confident that if they have any concerns, these will be dealt with quickly. Pupils value friendships and understand the importance of being kind to one another.

The school aims for all pupils to achieve highly, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities(SEND). Pupils are taught a broad range of subjects that build their learning year-on-year. Pupils achieve well overall

Pupils are polite and friendly. Effective routines are in place, which pupils follow well, particularly at break and lunchtimes.

The school provides a range of experiences that extend beyond the classroom. These include music, art and a wide variety of sporting clubs for pupils. Pupils have opportunities to develop leadership and citizenship skills through work as 'young governors', 'chicken monitors' and as part of the eco-club.



Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Each session covers a different topic of faith, and there's plenty of space to share your thoughts. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Tuesdays from 23rd January 2024 @ 7pm Bentley Church Hall, GU10 5NA Includes a meal! (It's not too late to join in February)

Join BenBinFro at New Wine United this summer!

This summer as a church family we are going to New Wine United (25th to 30th July 2024).

Come and join us for an amazing week full of fun, friendship, and most importantly, a time to meet with God and encounter his Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome!

New Wine's vision is that through the 'United' gatherings in the summer the local church (young and old) will be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be a force for change in our world.

Find out more at *new-wine.org*



growing in faith while having loads of fun! Groups are led by a gifted team, passionate about giving kids the best possible time on site.

FAMILIES

hanging out, having BBQs, playing games, building friendships, learning, growing and getting inspired.

to people of all abilities, with a dedicated and experienced team ensuring everyone can grow in faith and worship.

Sudoku Games

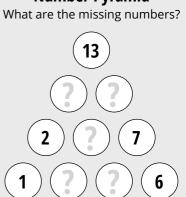
Sudoku game EASY

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



Sudoku game MEDIUM

Sudoku game HARD

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



BINSTED COFFEE SHOP





(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



BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Tuesday 6th February 2024 – our first meeting of 2024 as usual at 7.30pm. Please note for this meeting only, the meeting will take place upstairs at the Bentley Memorial Hall in the Hugh Barton room and **not** in the usual Denis Smith room.

Our speaker will be Geoff Hawkins who will give us a talk on Propagation – especially for the inexperienced gardener.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 5th March 2024 – our speaker will be Pauline Weeks

Tuesday 9th April 2024 - Spring show and Chairman's Quiz

Bentley Memorial Hall Association Presents

The Banshees of Inisherin



Friday 15th March At the Memorial Hall, tickets £7.00 Doors/bar open 7.15. Film starts at 8pm To reserve tickets please contact Glyn Barfoot 01420 23068 Or email:bentleybees@btinternet.com or buy tickets at the door

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The Bentley Memorial Hall Association 100+ Club

The winners of the recent draws of the Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club are:

December

1st Jim Munro

2nd Bruce & Lizzie Powell 3rd Ann Jov January

1st Ann Joy 2nd Bruce & Lizzie Powell 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 <u>www.bentleymemorialhall.org</u>.

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.

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 or contact magazine treasurer at <u>bentleytreasurer@benbinfro.co.uk</u> 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.

... 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



Bentley CE Primary

It's been another busy month at Bentley with lots of super learning taking place in all the classes. Year One have been enjoying their geography lessons and really wanted to share their learning with our local community.

Year One said: In our geography lessons this term we have been learning more about the environment and have been studying our local area as part of our geography project. We have been developing our understanding of where our village of Bentley is in relation to the rest of the world. We used Google Earth to zoom as far out as possible and then, click by click, we zoomed back in to find exactly where our school is. We learned that Bentley is part of Hampshire, which is part of England, which is part of the United Kingdom, which is on the continent of Europe, which is part of the World!!! We also found out that because of Bentley's location, good transport links to other nearby towns and villages is very important to those who live in Bentley. We went on a local walk to the footbridge crossing the A31 to see this for ourselves. We had to read a map to make sure we went the right way and then spotted lots of different vehicles travelling up and down the dual carriageway. It was very exciting!





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. If you are interested in your child joining us here at Bentley, we do have some places available in some of our classes across the school and would love to hear from you.



NEW ORGAN AT BINSTED

Demonstration of the new organ at Holy Cross, Binsted.

It was wonderful to have our new organ installed in time for Christmas. We hope you enjoyed the carols played through it!

A very successful Christmas fair in Binsted

Thank you to everyone involved in making the Christmas fair a huge success and raising over £3,300 plus the profit made by FOBS. The fair is getting bigger each year and would not take place without the many volunteers from the Church and School communities, stall holders and customers who came. There was a hugely successful raffle this year so thank you to everyone who donated a raffle prize or any items to the stalls. especially the cake stall, the nearly new stall, jewellery, chocolate and the new jigsaw and tool stalls. The chutneys and doggy treats were as popular as ever as was the sale of the wreaths, plus the handmade Christmas gifts and candles. Santa's grotto made me want to be a child again as it was so enchanting, and Father Christmas was kept busy. The children's stalls gave an additional interest and if you came along. I hope you had an enjoyable time. The money raised will be spent wisely both by the school and the church. Thank you.

Christmas Fair in 2024 Saturday 7th December

The Bentley Trust Fund

Charity No 237289

Many of you may know someone who needs some help. By contacting, or suggesting they contact, The Bentley Trust Fund you may well be able to help them in a very practical way. The Bentley Trust Fund was set up many years ago to assist the residents of Bentley, its purpose being to provide financial help to people and families living in our village.

The Bentley Trust Fund has some funds available to help any resident of Bentley who has an immediate need of modest financial assistance, for example:

- the purchase of school uniforms, school trips
- the purchase of household items i.e., cookers, fridges, carpets

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the involvement of the Trust, please contact Sue Davies in complete confidence on 01420 23535 or sue.davies26@hotmail.co.uk

Join Bentley AmDram's Next Production!



Following sell-out performances of its inaugural production, *Sudden Death at Bentley Towers*, Bentley Amateur Dramatics (BAD) Company is now planning its next production.

Last October's play received rave reviews from audience members, with many people expressing an interest in getting involved in 2024. Now's your opportunity! The company will be holding a play reading this February for any thespians or budding actors to try a role and decide whether they would like to audition.

You don't have to have previous experience in amateur dramatics to join this community group, just a passion for performing and entertaining is all you need. BAD Co. also welcomes anyone who would like to help out behind the scenes or front of house, there are lots of ways you can get involved.

At the time of writing, the title of 2024's play had not been confirmed, however the show will be staged in October and anyone wanting to perform must be available for rehearsals after the summer holidays. To express your interest contact bentleyamdram@gmail.com

The success of Sudden Death at Bentley Towers meant that BAD Co. was able to make donations to both Bentley CE Primary School and Bentley Memorial Hall. Founder and Director, Antonia Demetriadi, said, "Without the kind support of Bentley Parish Council, the Memorial Hall committee and the loan of staging by Bentley School, we wouldn't have had a show. So, I'm delighted that we can show our appreciation and donate on behalf of the cast, crew and everyone who bought tickets."



Members of BAD Co. regrouped at the end of November last year to entertain residents at Pax Hill Care Home. Helping to start the festive season, the group performed a variety of skits, poetry and songs with a musical accompaniment from Emma Eckersley on the ukulele. Antonia Demetriadi with Suki the dog, Robin Welland-Jones, Catherine Gatenby, Mike Ewin, Emma and Julian Eckersley with Rory the dog, recited AA Milne, Sir John Betjeman and Joyce Grenfell, as well as Hilaire Belloc, Edward Lear and Stanley Holloway.

Residents also joined in with popular songs including Country Roads, Show Me the Way Home and Blue Moon. The company hopes to do more performances in the local community like this, sharing their love of performing and entertaining.

To find out more about BAD Co., contact bentleyamdram@gmail.com

CURTIS MUSEUM & ALLEN GALLERY

(0142082802)

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

EXHIBITION

Our inaugural Artist in Residence, the awardwinning young Irish artist Camilla Hanney, presents her first full exhibition in the Gallery. She has provided a creative response to the outstanding collection of ceramics housed here. Camilla's solo show invites new ways of viewing the Gallery's Wedgwood porcelain collection as well as the history of the Gallery and garden, formerly the property of the Curtis family. Through the medium of clay, including a range of delicately constructed porcelain works, Camilla's work explores fragility, nature and the cycle of life and death. Alongside works that are a playful reference to the figures captured in traditional porcelain ornaments, the show also highlights the work of William Curtis the botanist and his studies of the natural world.

Saturday 3rd February - Sunday 4th March, FREE

Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of our project, Rediscovering the Allen Gallery.

TALKS

Hampshire Memorials

by **Tony Cross**, former Curator at the Curtis and Allen.

Thursday 8th February at 7.30. FREE.

Margaret Macfarlane's Legacy - The Allen **Gallery collection of Ceramics.** a talk by Jackie Breakspear.

Thursday 14th March at 7.30. FREE.

ACTIVITIES

To launch **Inspire Days**, our <u>pottery</u> programme for teens and young people, we are running a drop-in session of clay activities.

Wednesday 14th and Friday 16th February. FREE.

Snowdrop Saturdays

10th and 17th February. Come and wander round our lovely, peaceful garden and view the galanthus flowers.

For children there will be a **New Trail** round the Gallery and garden, with a creative activity at the end!

Tuesday 6th - Friday 23rd February.

For further information of any of our events please email allen gallery@ hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or see the website

CURTIS MUSEUM

FOUND AROUND ALTON

A new display of finds by a local Metal Detectorist (and volunteer) from the Alton area. This interesting selection ranges from Roman dress pins to medieval musket balls and coins to a beautiful seal matrix. Some items are a puzzle - any help with these will be welcome.

Upstairs in the Curtis till Easter. FREE

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Museum by Torchlight - Tuesday 13th February. 5.30-7pm. Bring a torch and explore The Curtis Museum at night at our family-friendly event. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £3 per child (adults free). Last entry 7pm but we will be open until 7.30pm.

There will be a **New Trail** round the Museum starting on the 6th February.

A Quiet Christmas from the Belfry at Bentley

s many of you may have noticed the bells at Bentley didn't ring out as such for Christmas day. However, we understand that Tony May improvised and played a splendid recording of Bentley bells as used on Radio 4's bells on Sunday programme. Thank you, Tony.

Even though we are currently silent at Bentley bellringers are always in demand. Bellringers on a Sunday quite typically ring at their own tower for a service, then head to another church for their service, a break and in the afternoon, there could be a special service and then ringing for evensong. All in all, on a typical Sunday we can ring for up to four hours! However, at Bentlev we can't!

The problems have stemmed from the fixtures and fittings along with parts worn out and needing to be replaced. There's a lot of components that go into the bells being rung. The things that make the bells ring include the bell-ropes, pulleys, wheels, stays, headstocks, sliders, clappers, bearings etc.



The bells themselves are in good condition, however, the last refurbishment was in 1912 and time has come to look at major repair works and how the bells can be maintained to ring for another 100+ years.

We are embarking on plans with the church wardens and clergy to look at what needs doing, and what it's going to cost to repair, replace and refurbish. We'll keep you informed, and we hope the silence won't be for too long.

Bentley Bellringers.



At this time of the year the deciduous trees, and shrubs, have largely lost the last vestiges of green. It's not a good time for me.

I'm afraid I can't share the feeling some people have for the stark, black, skeletal outline of an oak, a beech, a birch or a lime. They should be shrouded in green, and I can't wait for them to be that way again. I should be able to find solace in the evergreens, and, I admit, they are a partial comfort.

I'm not keen on needles, but I don't mind the conifers that have scale-like leaves rather than needles. These include a wide range, from giant sequoia down to juniper, and the three most popular members of the cypress family

Of all the *Cupressus* found in the British Isles there are three very common and similar looking trees which you're likely to encounter: Lawson cypress, Western red-cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii* – a hybrid between Nootka (*C. nootkatensis*) and Monterey (*C. macrocarpa*) cypresses): there are three quick ways to tell them apart.

The smell of lightly crushed foliage of Lawson cypress is savoury (often dubiously referred to as 'parsley-like'). That of Western red-cedar is sweet (Wrigleys juicy fruit gum, fruit-salad penny chews, fake pineapple). While muchmaligned Leyland cypress smells generic resinous/coniferous.

Lawsonia cones are roughly spherical, usually around 7-11mm in diameter when the scales are open. Those of *Thuja plicata* are tulip or vase-shaped, especially when immature. Sadly *Leylandii* is a manufactured hybrid that is usually sterile; so no cones.

The lead shoot at the very top of the Lawson cypress flops over. The lead shoot of the other two is straight.

In addition, if you look at a sprig of Lawsons with light behind it you should see a series of spindle-shaped translucent resin glands not visible in the other two. You may need a x10 hand-lens to see this clearly but please don't use the direct light of the sun as your back-light!

Lawson cypress was introduced to the British Isles in 1854 from its native range in N.W. California and S.W. Oregon where it is known as the Port Orford cedar. Lawson cypress isn't widely used for forestry but it is very popular in horticulture and there are hundreds of different cultivars, many of which look very different from the species type and can be difficult to identify, unless whoever planted it remembered to leave the label in place.

Native to North America, the western red cedar is planted in Britain, often as evergreen hedging in gardens or for timber. It is tolerant of dense shade. The dense foliage attracts many birds and insects which find shelter in the fissured bark. A tall, conical, evergreen tree, reaching up to 65m. Some specimens can live to be over a thousand years old.

Western red cedar is an important tree in Native American cultures, and is the provincial tree emblem for British Columbia. It is said to be a very strong tree and its strength is celebrated in its native land. Tales say that a person could receive its strength just by standing with their back to the tree.

What can I say about poor old Leyland cypress? It was an accident, happy or otherwise. It grows guick. Some say too guick. I suppose we should leave the smart stuff to Mother Nature.

Ben Hamlin, Tree Warden binstedtrees@gmail.com



SPRING CLASSES

in the Wickham Institute on

Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm

and

Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm

In aid of the Spire Appeal for Holy Cross Church, Binsted

> £20 for both sessions or £10 for one session

Pay cash or bank transfer to Holy Cross Church PCC

Email angela1dunne@sky.com

Tel. 01420 22922



Simon Maloney: Feathered Touch

Alton Camera Club

The first half of the 2023-24 season at Alton Camera Club has been a very positive one. Way back in September we welcomed fourteen new members through our doors and they got stuck-in from day one, entering competitions (and gaining high marks), attending field trips and even making the tea. We celebrated members' achievements: Paul Booker received a bronze award from the Guild of Photographers for his image 'Stop Looking at Me', Wendy Davies' image from Victorious Festival was placed 2nd in the 'Low Light' round of the Amateur Photographer of the Year competition and Tony Cole published his beautiful photobook "Just Puffins", containing a selection of stunning images taken on his trip to Skomer Island.

We're at the mid-way point in our closely fought club Print and PDI competition leagues and the 'Challenge' competitions which have produced some high scoring images. Our most recent challenge competition, 'Panorama', resulted in 10's for Tony Cole's 'Pelican in Dawn's Calmness' and Kelvin Perry's 'Battle for Alton'.

We look forward to a varied programme of field trips with outings to Salisbury, Winchester, the British Wildlife Centre and a trip to London for the Chinese New Year celebrations. Upcoming talks include "Impressions of India" by Jon Mitchell and "Africa, Land of the Giants" by Mike Beaumont. Our club competitions continue with challenges on 'Stripes,' 'Happiness' and 'Sport & Games'.



Our membership fee has now reduced for the New Year and we welcome new members at any level, from enthusiastic beginner to experienced professional. A fancy camera is not necessary; our members produce excellent images from mobile phone cameras too.

We meet every Wednesday, 7.30pm at Holybourne Village Hall, GU34 4HD. Please see our website www.altoncameraclub.org.uk for more details. We're also on Facebook (Alton Camera Club) and Instagram @altoncameraclub.























Binsted Parish CouncilPlanning Consultations

2024 is shaping up to be a busy year for large-scale planning consultations affecting all areas of Binsted Parish. The Parish Council is not the decision maker for planning decisions- in most cases it is either East Hants District Council (EHDC) or South Downs National Park (SDNP) (our Parish straddles both) who are the Planning Authorities and decision makers, and in certain situations Hampshire County Council where they have responsibility for particular facilities (like the Veolia waste management site on the A31). The Parish Council is a statutory consultee, which means we are informed of, and can support or make objections to, planning consultations small and large within the Parish, whether that be for domestic planning applications, environmental issues or large-scale development. A summary of the larger-scale applications we have been involved in recently and will be high on the agenda in 2024 can be found on our website https://binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/consultations

These include developments that have the potential to have a major impact on the Parish, including EHDC's and SDNP's Draft Local Plans which could result in developments for many hundreds of new homes and infrastructure within and bordering the Parish. In addition, there are other developments and plans for local infrastructure and community facilities that will impact on various aspects of community life, traffic, noise and the wider environment. These include things such as the closures and potential redevelopment of the Jolly Farmer

pub and Blacknest Golf Club; proposals for the major upgrading of Birdworld; Network Rail's application to extinguish and divert two footpaths at Bentley Station, which would be Network Rail's first step towards obtaining permission to replace the current Bentley Station footbridge with a new footbridge/lift; other changes to the facilities and signage at Bentley Station; plans for the expansion of Farnborough Airport and a consultation on the Civil Aviation Authority's Airspace Modernisation Strategy for twenty UK airports including Farnborough.

If you are interested in any of these specific issues and would like to get involved in helping the Parish Council shape our views and responses to any of these consultations, or you have a professional background in planning and would be prepared to assist the Parish Council in some of the more technical aspects of submitting responses we would love to hear from you. Ensuring we obtain a wide variety of local views and can represent these views in our responses will be vital over the coming months to give us the best possible chance of expressing the community's strength of feelings on these issues, encourage good quality developments and facilities and stave off inappropriate development that may have a negative impact on the Parish. If you'd like to get in touch please contact me at clerk@binstedparishcounil.org.uk, or call on 07483 310631 to have a chat.

Mike Mordecai, Binsted Parish Clerk.

Mike Mordecai, Clerk - <u>clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk</u> 07483 310631 Alison Melvin, Chair - <u>a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk</u> 07851 677057

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

Sudoku December & January Answers

5	пd	\cap	kп	FΔ	SV

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

Sudoku MFDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way

The 2023 /2024 Autumn and Winter period has started in a particularly turbulent way, with eight named storms already, three of them in December and one in the first week of the New Year, all bringing heavy rain and high winds. There has been flooding in many places and the ground is really waterlogged. The impact on the Rights of Way has been significant, with many paths and bridleways deep in mud and a number of fallen trees blocking some of them. Any fallen trees that the volunteer team identify or which are reported to us are usually flagged to Hampshire Countryside Services using the internet portal described at the foot of this article. In some cases, we are able to clear

them ourselves, but many are too large and/or hazardous and must be tackled by the landowners or the HCC Ranger team. We have found that reporting them online is a very efficient way of resolving the problem - most are removed within days, following regular email status updates. On the other hand, the HCC Countryside Services team specifically ask us not to report muddy conditions on paths and bridleways, as very little can usually be done in the short term. If the issues persist after a period of warm and dry weather, then we are encouraged to highlight problem locations for possible remedial action.

Long-distance walking routes are nationally important and we have several examples locally. Although the Hangers

Way only passes through Binsted parish for a relatively short distance at Neatham Down, it runs for 21 miles in total, from Alton station via East Worldham and Petersfield to the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Although I haven't managed the full route in one go, it is on my list! It takes in several Hangers - the steep-sided, wooded hills characteristic of the local Hampshire countryside. There is one problem close to the Parish, however, which is that the official route crosses a fast stretch of the A31 dual carriageway near Wilsom. For many years, walkers leaving Alton have avoided this crossing by continuing along Wilsom Road, underneath the A31 bridge, then turning left and walking between the A31 and Omega Park solar farm to rejoin the official route - it is slightly longer, but far, far safer.

Acknowledging the growing local pressure to recognise this as a new Right of Way, there is likely to be a public hearing about this proposal in the early summer of 2024. So, if you have experienced the dangers of running the gauntlet at the A31 crossing or have already used the unofficial low-risk diversion near the Solar Farm, we would really like to hear your opinions and comments. Please take the time to let us know, using the email address at the foot of this article and we will ensure that your words are conveyed to the right people.

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.



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We shall meet at the Memorial Hall at 6.45 pm for a glass of fizz.

You will then find out where you will be going for supper at 8pm.

For more information or to book your place please contact:

Linda Fuller lindafuller1105@gmail.com 07891825410



SAVE THE DATE Saturday 13th July





More details, Competition & Dog Show categories, entry forms and Fete history found Online: www.binstedfete.co.uk Facebook: Binsted Fete and Flower Show

Email: thebinstedfete@gmail.com















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As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the December 2023 & January 2024 draws:

December 2023	January 2024
1 st prize Chris Beare	1 st prize Mark Walden
2 nd prize Pam Smith	2 nd prize Jenny Blaber
3 rd prize Graham Jones	3 rd prize Trish Cardy

Details of the February 2024 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

WEATHER STATISTICS





November 2023



December 2023





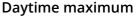
Daytime maximum

15.6°C (13th) to 3.4°C (30th) 7 days below 10°C



Nightime minimum

-4.2°C (26th) to 10.0°C (13th)



14.4°C (24th) to 0.3°C (2th) 11 days below 10°C with no days below 0°C



6 nights below 0°C

Nightime minimum

-5.2°C (1st) to 11.3°C (24th) 7 nights below 0°C





Total for month

1.93 inches (49.0 mm) over 19 days



Wettest day

0.32 inches (8.2 mm) (15th)

Total for month

3.07 inches (78.0 mm) over 17 days

Wettest days

0.48 inches (12.2 mm) (12th)





Wind direction*

West South West



Maximum gust

28 mph (13th)

Wind direction*

West South West

Maximum gust

33 mph (9th)

Parish Weatherman

*Dominant



WEATHER STATISTICS

FOR

2023







Highest daytime 33.6°C (9th September)



Lowest nightime -10.1°C (5th January)





Total rainfall 28.19 inches (716.2mm) (wettest month was March)





Strongest gust 33 mph (9th December)

Parish Weatherman





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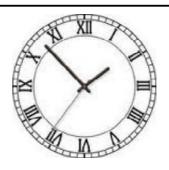
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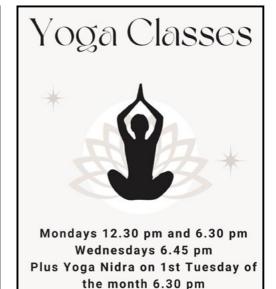
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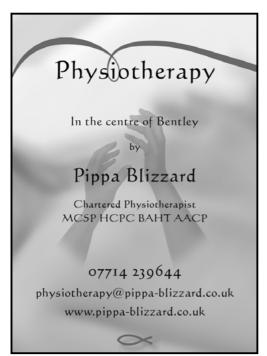
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Email phillip.davies@easthants.gov.uk

Parish Council

Chairman: Mr John Fuller 07768 558751 johnfuller@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk Clerk: Emma Wadev 07795 326539 Email: clerk@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: @bentleyparishcouncil Instagram: @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: bentlevschoolptfa@amail.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

stephenwhowell@bentleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Joint Parish Organisations

Care Group (car service) Bookings: 07775 458873 Secretary: 01420 590697

Girl Guides (at Holybourne) Lucv 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

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

February Services



4th February 9:30am Binsted Holy Communion

11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

6:30pm Bentley Praise

11th February 8am Binsted Holy Communion (BCP)

9:30am Bentley Morning Worship

& Children's Church

11am Froyle Holy Communion

6:30pm Kingsley Praise

14th February Ash Wednesday 9:30am Froyle Ash Wednesday Holy

Communion

6:30pm Binsted Ash Wednesday Holy

Communion

18th February

9:30am Froyle Morning Worship 11am Kingsley Holy Communion 4pm Binsted Messy Church 👫

25th February 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion

& Children's Church 🌉

11am Binsted Morning Worship

6:30pm Froyle Evensong

3rd March

9:30am Binsted Holy Communion 11am Oakhanger Holy Communion

6:30pm Bentley Praise

🥌 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







ebenbinfro churches