

APRIL 2024

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE

FEATURING

Hang Out With Friends 10

Alton Camera Club 18

The Language Of Weaving 22

Have You Seen This Insect? 27

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle: Revd Matt Boyes

matt@benbinfro.co.uk | 07469 270590

C/O Church Office, St Mary's Church, Bentley, Farnham, GU10 5NA

Website: www.benbinfro.co.uk

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

Benefice Administrators – Lucinda Edwards and Marie Roberts (maternity cover)
(admin@benbinfro.org) 01420 23339

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

Parishes Prayer Chain – Nick Carter
01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Pastoral Care Team – Nick Carter
01420 489122 or nick.carter1945@outlook.com

Anna Chaplain – Position vacant
annachaplain@benbinfro.co.uk

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

Bentley: St Mary's Churchwardens:

Jill Kiely, 11 Broadlands Close, Bentley, GU10 5LE - 22735

Nick Caddick, Tanners, GU10 5NE - 23229

Binsted: Holy Cross Churchwardens

Cathie Weldon, Malms House, GU34 4NU – 07828 083535

Stella Croom-Johnson, 4 Foresters Cottages GU34 4PS – 07740 861256

Parish Magazine

Articles and Advertising: Any copy or advertising enquiries should be sent to Marie Roberts (maternity cover) on the **5th** of the month, by email (magazine@benbinfro.org)

Editor: Benefice Team

Designer: Mike Hammerton

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

Distribution: Bentley – Harold Fish Tel 22947

Binsted – Kaye & Nigel Hicks: kaye.hicks@gmail.com

and Linda & John Kenward: lindawellsuk@yahoo.co.uk

Benefice Letter

I must admit that I am always slightly envious of Wales, Scotland and Ireland. I'm not talking about rugby and the 'Six Nations', although that last minute drop goal to win against Ireland was poetry to this Englishman!

Instead, I am envious of their patron saints. Scotland has St. Andrew, one of the disciples of Jesus, but it is highly unlikely that he travelled from Palestine to northern Britain, before going back to Greece to meet his martyrdom by crucifixion. Wales has St. David, bishop and inspiring leader of his countrymen during the time of unrest and violence caused by Viking raids. Finally, Ireland has St. Patrick, credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland and ridding it of snakes.

England? Well we have St. George to celebrate on 23rd April. St. George (probably!) never fought a dragon, which is the only thing most people know about him. This legend began to circulate about 800 years after his death. St. George is remarkably busy as a patron saint, as well as England; he also is said to look after Georgia, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia and Ukraine.

We know very little about the real St. George. He was an officer in the Roman army who refused to recant his faith when Imperial orders were issued that no Christian should serve in the army because their loyalty was suspect, for putting God before the emperor. He was tortured and executed and his courage in the face of death served as an inspiration for many.

We might be forgiven for thinking that we now live in very different times and this brave man has nothing to say to us in 2024. Unfortunately, Christianity is the most persecuted faith in the world. The World Watch List reports that 365 million Christians face persecution and discrimination for their faith. That is 1 in 7 of the global Christian population. Last year, 4998 Christians were murdered and 14 766 churches and Christian properties were attacked. The new Bishop of Winchester has been instrumental in raising the fact of Christian persecution in the House of Lords and lobbying Government departments to consider religious persecution of Christians alongside other human rights abuses perpetuated by regimes.

It is shocking that the media stays silent on this subject. That ordinary people trying to live their lives and worship

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in the way they wish, are subject to physical assault, rape, and even death. That Christians are prevented from owning businesses, and restricted to only the most menial jobs. That communities are provided with electricity and communications while Christian villages are deliberately left off the grid.

St. George perhaps is an apt patron saint after all. The long-standing British preferences for the underdog and playing fair by the rules might be just the qualities that we need to exhibit to speak out in protection of the right to worship freely. Freedom of speech and equality under law are principles that we should seek to promote. But we should also remember that Jesus said that persecution would be a reality to those who seek to follow him. At the end of the Beatitudes, the list of those who are blessed, Jesus says:

"I say love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. In that way you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives sunlight to both the evil, and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust, too. If you only love those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are only kind to your friends, how are you different from everyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matt 5:43-47

May you never know persecution. But may we also pray for those who do.

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle



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



WHAT'S ON IN APRIL?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church (year R-6)
15 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	16	17	18	19 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	20	21 4pm Binsted Messy Church (families)
22 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	23	24	25	26	27	28 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church (year R-6)
29 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	30	1	2	3 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	4	5



Sunday 21st April

4-6pm

Binsted Village Hall

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

THE KING'S ARMS





**WICKHAM INSTITUTE
SPRING SUPPER
SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2024
7.30 PM**

**Come and join us for good home-made
food and pleasant company.**

**Tickets cost £20 each and can be booked
by calling 01420 23157 or emailing
treasurer@wickhaminstitute.co.uk**

**Early booking is recommended as
this is always a popular event.**

**Please note that you will need to
provide your own drink.**





School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Binsted School's leaps for kindness

At Binsted, the Friends of Binsted, FOBS, came up with the idea of leaps for kindness as part of our Leap Year celebrations. The staff and children thought it was a wonderful idea and it echoes our school values of Faith, Hope and Love.

Each child, and member of staff, wrote a paper chain link with a kind act either they did, or that someone did for them. It was amazing as when we started writing them it spread and spread and we soon had a huge chain linked by kindness.

The children wrote many acts including:

'I helped my mummy and daddy when they were ill'

'I tidied up my bedroom'

'I looked after my friend when they were sad'

'I love my family, they look after me'

'My friends play with me'

The adults wrote very similar sentiments such as:

'My friend helped me'

'I made a special meal for my family'

We went into the hall, joined the chain and the whole school was surrounded by acts of kindness. We then invited children and adults to share their acts of kindness as they made leaps. It was a wonderful way to mark February 29th and made us feel very proud to be part of such a special, kind caring school community.

Mrs Morton



Prayer Week

Sunday 12th – Sunday 19th May

Rebuilding the Ruins

Isaiah 58:12

Visit Bentley Church Hall to see a room full of prayer stations, each with a different activity or idea to help you to pray.

Our theme this year is repair and rebuilding, inviting you to read, listen and reflect in prayer.

Each station is lovingly made by members of our church, lots of time and effort has gone into each one!

Sign up to book your slot to guarantee a quiet hour, or pop in when you're free if you don't mind sharing the space with others.

Sunday 12th May 8pm start

6 am to Midnight each day (Monday - Saturday)

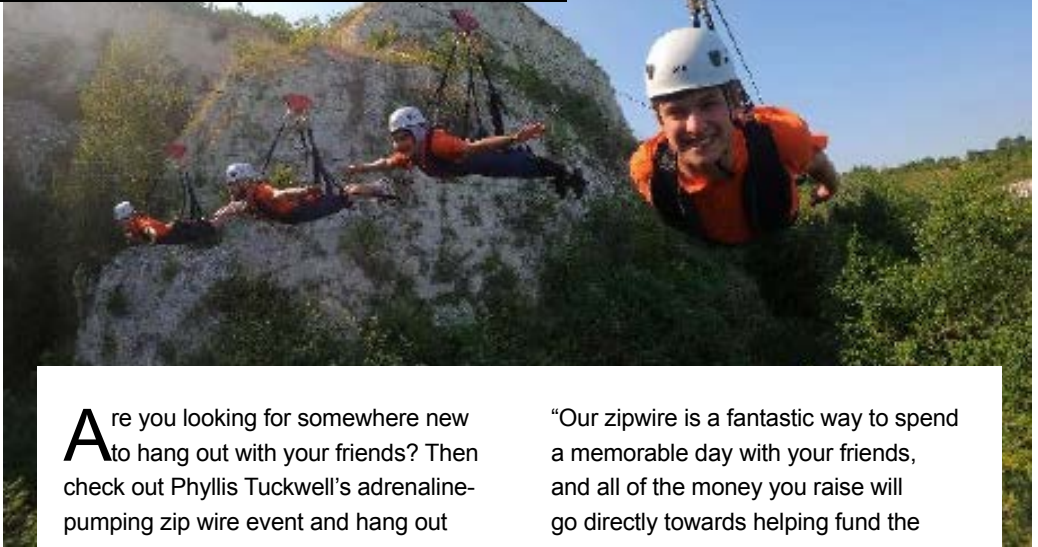
Finishes at 8am on last day (Sunday 19th May)



Scan me



Hang Out With Friends on Phyllis Tuckwell Zip Wire



Are you looking for somewhere new to hang out with your friends? Then check out Phyllis Tuckwell's adrenaline-pumping zip wire event and hang out together in the skies!

This fantastic aerial activity is the perfect challenge to take on with friends. Fly through the sky together on England's longest zipwire, at speeds of up to 60mph, 100m off the ground! As well as being a great way to hang out with friends, if you sign up in a group of four you'll save money on your registration fees. But don't worry if you want to take part on your own, Phyllis Tuckwell would still love you to take part and will be there to cheer you on.

The event will take place on Saturday 8th June at Hangloose Adventure, Bluewater. Individual entry is £30 and entry for a team of four is £100. Minimum sponsorship is £100 per person.

"Our zipwire is a fantastic way to spend a memorable day with your friends, and all of the money you raise will go directly towards helping fund the specialist hospice care we provide for patients and families living with an advanced or terminal illness, such as cancer," said Fiona Chapman, events fundraiser at Phyllis Tuckwell. "As the NHS/Government usually only covers about 20% of our costs, we have to raise over £25,000 every day. Your £100 sponsorship could pay for over four hours' care from one of our nurses, who provide specialist nursing care for our patients, and compassionate support for their loved ones."

So don't hang about – sign up today! Visit www.pth.org.uk/zipwire for more information and to register.





2nd Bentley Scouts - the future!

We have over 80 young people in our group and a wide group of adults that work together to create interesting activities and programme, provide governance, fundraise and maintain the kit and equipment. Although we have a good team we are currently looking for new members from all backgrounds to keep us moving forward and to help us be ready for the transformation that we will be undergoing as a movement next year.

We are particularly looking for trustees and people to join our delivery teams, get in touch if you are interested. We will invite you to join in some sessions and find out what it is all about.

When you read this it will be spring and we will all be looking towards the lighter nights to get out and about. We are planning our camping trips for the summer and looking forward to the whole group camp which our Squirrels (the 4 & 5 year olds) will join in with for the first time. For many it will be their first opportunity to have a day away with the rest of the Scout family, I am sure they will particularly enjoy the campfire on Saturday night with it's crazy songs. We are also planning a summer camp for our older groups, Scouts and Explorers. They will be able to spend time cooking together, trying adventurous activities, hiking and telling lots of stories round the campfire. Let's hope the days are full of laughter and fun and the weather is fine.

Finally, please do support the Jumble Sale on Saturday May 18th. Drop off donations the evening before or on the morning, then come along and find a bargain from 2pm. This event is an essential part of our fundraising for the year which supports our activities. If you'd like to help out at the Jumble then please do also get in touch.

Happy Easter!

Melissa 07974377736

SAVE THE DATE GROUP CAMP

2nd Bentley Scouts -
Group & Family Camp 2024

When: 7th - 9th June 2024

Where: Bentley Copse, Shere

DETAILS TO FOLLOW
AFTER EASTER

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Tuesday 2nd April 2024 – our April meeting will be as usual time of 7.30 pm in the Denis Smith room at Bentley Memorial Hall. This meeting will be our Spring show and Chairman's Quiz.

The classes for the show will be the same as last year:

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

It would be helpful if exhibitors could ensure that their exhibits are in place by 7.30pm so that we give the judges sufficient time to judge all the entries.

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

Date for your diary:

Tuesday 7th May 2024 – At this meeting, Peter Herring will be giving a talk on Winkworth Arboretum.

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 the 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.

Saturday Café



Saturdays at Bentley Memorial Hall

10.30am - 12.30pm

Coffee, cakes
and canapes!

We look forward to
seeing you as Spring
approaches and we
all want to get
together more...



Handmade

Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

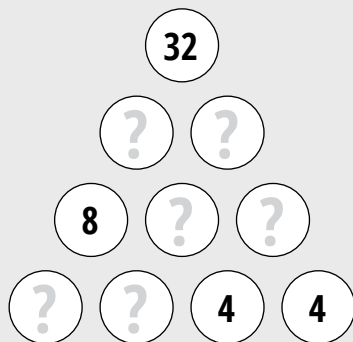
							6	8
	5		1					
	3			7	5	2		
	6				1	8		5
9			8		7			4
8		4	5				2	
		3	4	8			7	
					3		5	
7	4							

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

Sudoku game HARD

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

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

EXHIBITION

Echoes of Iceland - this group of four professional textile artists presented a most interesting and popular exhibition in 2023. They are returning to the Gallery in April - watch the website for dates.

Penny Peters - A beautiful exhibition of work by this local quilter - till 30th March. FREE

TALKS

George Wither, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot?

A talk by Barrie Lees. George Wither was born and bred in Bentworth. He had a penchant for upsetting people with his writings, and was jailed 4 times as a result. He also surrendered Farnham Castle to the Royalists without a shot being fired. Truly an interesting subject!

Thursday 11th April at 7.30. FREE

ACTIVITIES

OUR MAJOR NEW PROGRAMME OF POTTERY WORKSHOPS for young people aged 11-17. Supported by The Murray Parish Trust, these country-wide workshops are intended to promote positive mental health and provide regular, long-term opportunities

for young people in Hampshire to use creativity to build their well-being. The high-quality workshops are delivered by professional artist Jill Maguire. **Every Saturday 10.30 - 12.30, until 1st June.** (No session on 6/04). For more details and booking, please see www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones.

EASTER for children and families

Make and Take: Seasonal pottery session. Join our popular holiday clay adventure where you can make and take home your own seasonal project! Cost: £5. Please pre-book online via the gallery website. **Saturday 6th April, 10.30 - 11.15, and 11.30 - 12.15.**

Easter Trail round the Gallery and garden from **26th March to 19th April.** Can you find the Easter items hidden in our Gallery collection? Drop in and pick up a trail (There will be a trail round the Museum also.)

ALLEN GALLERY FILM NIGHT

We will be presenting another movie in May - details tba.

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



CURTIS MUSEUM

PRE-LOVED DOLLS HOUSE ITEMS NEEDED

The pre-loved dolls house items range is very popular with collectors of all ages at Dolls House Day. With stock now low if you have any pre-loved items relating to dolls houses and would be happy to donate them to The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery for this year's Dolls House Weekend (27/28 July) please contact Caroline Taylor; carolineanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk. All profits from the sale of these items will contribute to supporting these venues.

SAVE THE DATE!

As part of our continuing fundraising efforts **Cantique** will be giving a concert in Holy Cross Church on the evening of **Friday 31st May**. Cantique are a well known and popular local choral group who always sing to a very high standard and many of you will remember the enjoyable concert they gave in July 2022. Details of ticket prices and the programme will be announced nearer the time but it's likely to prove a highly popular event so please make a note of it in your diary now to avoid disappointment.

Church Registers

Bentley

Friday 2nd February Funeral of Margaret Elizabeth Jean Angell

Binsted

Tuesday 27th February Interment of ashes of Margaret and Derek Port



David Quick: Wing Walker

Alton Camera Club

It's been an exciting month at Alton Camera Club. Our member Wendy Davies' image 'Victorious Festival 2023' has been shortlisted in the Music round of the London Camera Exchange Photographer of the Year competition. Wendy's image will be displayed at the upcoming Photography and Video show at Birmingham's NEC. The results of the competition will be announced on Sunday 17th March.

There was also exciting news for club member, Renee Smith. Her image 'L'Ombrello Rosso' has also been selected for display at The Photography Show, this time by SheClicks. SheClicks is the fastest-growing photography community in the UK and is aiming to raise the profile of female photographers. They have recently been awarded the Amateur Photographer Community of the Year Award 2024. We look forward to a day trip to "Brum" to see our images in all their glory!

Programme Secretary, Andrew Sorrell, organised a very successful, but chilly, light painting session in the grounds of Hartley Mauditt church. Light painting expert, Michelle Essenson, came along and gave us hints and tips on how to create interesting images using torches, light wands and the camera's slow shutter speed settings.

Our field trips took us to London for the lively Chinese New Year celebrations. In contrast, our second field trip of the month was a more sedate affair, with a leisurely stroll around Winchester.

Competitions-wise, last month saw the third round of our Print League Competition, with marks of 10 awarded to Tony Cole, Kelvin Perry, Barry Clark, Lynne Harles and David Quick.

We also held the third round of our Print Challenge Competition on the theme of 'Stripes'. Judged by Tim Clarke, he was so impressed with the



images on show that he awarded full marks of 10 to ten images. Tim awarded first place to Andrew Sorrell for 'Refraction', second to Tim Higgs for 'Don't Stand on the Stripes' and third place to Renee Smith for 'Ready for Summer'. Highly Commended awards went to Katy Matthews, Wendy Davies, Kelvin Perry and Tony Cole.

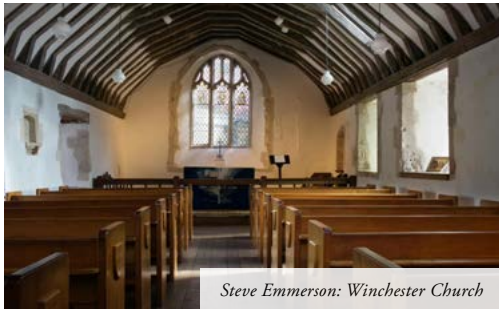
Alton Camera Club, meet weekly, every Wednesday from September to April, 7.30 pm at Holybourne Village Hall, GU34 4HD. New members are always welcome. Please see www.altoncameraclub.co.uk for more details and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Adrian Corser: Winchester Book Shop



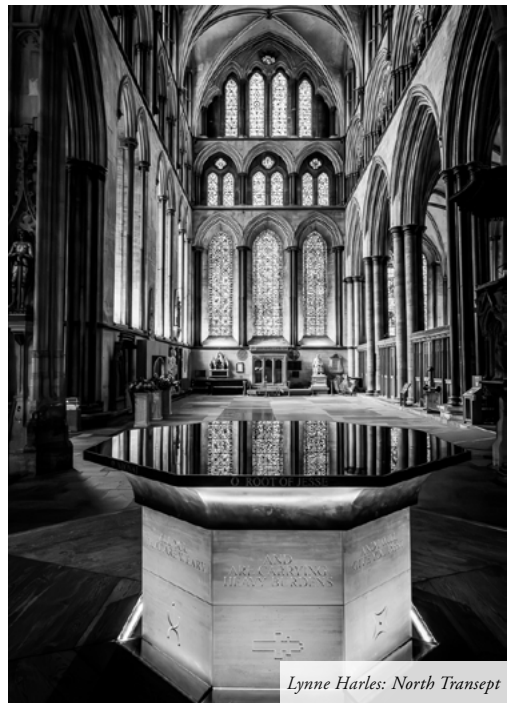
Renee Smith: Ready for Summer



Steve Emmerson: Winchester Church



Vicky Ellis: Light Painting



Lynne Harles: North Transept



Tony Coles: That Moment of Love and Happiness



Wendy Davies: Victorious Festival 2023



Binsted Parish Council is revolting!

As many of you know, Binsted Parish Council submitted a strong objection to East Hampshire District Council's Local Plan Consultation (Reg 18) in March. Put simply, we thought EHDC's Draft Plan proposed too many houses, in the wrong place, with no infrastructure, along with environmental destruction. If approved, EHDC's Plan would more than double Binsted parish's current 1,900 population and would cover 111 hectares of greenfield land - 4% of our entire parish. Moreover, EHDC's Plan only covers the land in EHDC's part of Binsted parish. SDNP's Local Plan is yet to follow, and its plans will be additional to EHDC's. Frankly, it's been gruelling to get up to speed on the aspects of planning policy we needed to consider, as none of the parish council team has a professional background in planning.

But our experience has generated an important positive. It's been a real pleasure to meet some amazing parishioners, from both the Neatham Down and Holt Pound areas, who have inspired spirited local responses to the EHDC proposals in a very short space of time. As this article goes to press, the highest responses of all the Local Plan sites proposed are to 'our'

development sites. With 4 days still to go before the end of the consultation:

- 1,043 people have commented on the Neatham Down 'Strategic Site' (Site ALT-8); and
- 74 people have so far commented on Holt Pound (Site HOP-1).

A further positive is that the Neatham Down campaign (www.saveneathamdown.org) has worked very constructively with other local Alton campaign groups, coming together to fight the overdevelopment of Alton, instead of fighting like a bag of ferrets to find a sacrificial site. Of all those drawn into the campaigning, 11-year old Erin Hills from Neatham Down is amongst the most inspirational. Her poem, opposite, speaks to us all.

We think it's time for Binsted parish to get 'on the front foot'

The past few years have brought a seemingly endless series of difficult major planning applications, which have been sapping for all on their frontline. From Grundon's proposal for a dioxin dump, Northbrook, Veolia's AERF and subsequent anaerobic digester, IGas' aggregate distribution compound... as well as our ongoing quest for safer roads, traffic calming

and efforts to stop Farnborough Airport's expansion. Residents are reaching 'objection exhaustion'.

Mounting a defence against each new, unwelcome proposal takes energy and puts us on the 'back foot', feeling perpetually at risk of being outmanoeuvred by opponents. There's also another, more insidious cost. The 'opportunity cost' of constantly fighting these proposals is that we're so busy saying what we don't want, that we fail to articulate what we do want.

It's now time to speak up about what we DO want. Last summer's consultation, when parishioners gave their views for Binsted's Parish Priority Statement, identified clear priorities. We now need to convert those aspirations into action. The parish council has already expanded its Transport Working Group to involve non-councillors to address traffic problems (road traffic volumes, speeds and safety, and the need for safe cycle routes). We now need to similarly expand our Local Plan Working Group, so we can make progress on identifying potential brownfield locations (such as farmyards) as alternatives to building on farmland and areas of high biodiversity, and on finding ways of providing genuinely affordable housing to help local families to stay in this beautiful area.

If you are interested in becoming part of this initiative, please get in touch.

**We need you! Alison Melvin.
Binsted Parish Council Chair**

a.melvin@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk

07851 677057.

Your Opportunity (by Erin Hills, age 11)

All the world's an opportunity
An opportunity to discover your dream.
Enter and decide your passion,
As one person exits, one person enters,
Your acts being an opportunity,
Your life being an opportunity.
So accept it, have a lovely time,
Shine like the stars in the night sky.
Learn with joy and hard work,
Set a daily step goal,
Drink more water,
Stop climate change and deforestation,
Be healthier - have a treat every now
and then,
But eat healthy, drink healthy.
And shine bright.
Protect our green fields,
Protect yourself, family as well.
You could even do your chores.
Be respectful, kind and positive.
Remember, your life is one opportunity,
Don't waste it.

An Ode to Neatham Down (anonymous)

Across the valley from the town,
Beyond the road that snakes around,
With ancient woodland for its crown,
The rolling green of Neatham Down.
So high above the valley floor
And far beyond the traffic roar,
Where skylarks sing and red kites soar,
But will this place exist no more?
You know that magic happens here?
A boxing hare, a leaping deer,
The darkest skies, and stars so clear,
A golden swathe when summer's near.
But bricks are bricks and roads are roads.
What madness here has taken hold?
Unite to save these fields of gold
To stop their awful fate unfold.

Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney: The Language of Weaving

5 March – 1 June 2024

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is delighted to announce the opening of Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney: The Language of Weaving on 5 March 2024.



Katharine Swailes
Spring Field, 2022
Wool and cotton, 63 x 63 cm
Image © Joshua Kershaw

Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney are artists, tapestry weavers, and educators. Alongside their drawings and paintings, they create wall-based artworks using the ancient technique of handwoven tapestry. Swailes and Penney met at the West Dean Tapestry Studio, where they were professional master weavers for nearly twenty years. Today, they work alongside each other in their studio in the Arun Valley, West Sussex.



Caron Penney
Harmony, 2022
Wool, cotton and gilt gold
57 x 58 cm
Image ©Steve Speller

As a couple and working partners, they share a passion for the traditional practice of tapestry weaving and its development and recognition as an art form. This locates them within a historical network of women artists and designers whose work in the field of textiles is slowly being recognised for its artistic contribution to the development of contemporary art and design in this country.



Katharine Swailes
Months and Seasons on the loom, 2024
Image ©Steve Speller

Katharine Swailes

Katharine Swailes (b.1963) is one of today's leading contemporary artists working with tapestry weaving. Born and brought up in the beautiful Upper Eden Valley in Cumbria, now based in rural Sussex, the qualities of light and colour that shift across the landscape continue to inspire her. Swailes has exhibited widely and has work in numerous private and public collections, including the Guy's & St. Thomas' Art Collection who purchased the work for the maternity ward in 2019 at London Art Fair.



Caron Penney
Harmony on the loom, 2022
Image ©Steve Speller

Caron Penney

Caron Penney (b.1970) is one of today's leading contemporary artists working with tapestry weaving. Born in Hampshire and brought up in the picturesque market village of Botley. Penney weaves with traditional materials synonymous with hand-woven tapestry, from worsted wool to gilt gold thread. She studied Constructed Textiles at Middlesex University and alongside her own practice, she teaches tapestry weaving. Penney has exhibited widely and has work in numerous private and public collections, including the Rumi Foundation, who purchased the tapestry 'The Red Line' at Collect Art Fair in 2022, in support of artists who create work of important social significance and social understanding. The exhibition contains 15 woven

tapestries alongside drawings, sketchbooks and materials. In this exhibition, Swailes presents two series of works, Glyphs and Loops and Colourfield tapestries and Penney presents her abstract grid and text-based work.

Weaving Demonstration

Katharine Swailes will be in the gallery to give a weaving demonstration on 13 March and 9 April 2024. For more information visit www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk.

*“As weavers, we are time
travellers, following a path that
has been trodden for millennia in
the same way but ever different.”*

[Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney]

Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney: *The Language of Weaving*

5 March – 1 June 2024

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney: The Language of Weaving presents an exhibition of 15 woven tapestries by two of the leading artists working with tapestry weaving today. Tapestry weaving has a long and rich history, and Swailes and Penney see themselves working within this continuous tradition. Their abstract and text-based tapestries explore the connection between weaving, language and pattern to create beautiful and skillfully hand-woven contemporary artworks.



WAYMARKS...

Maintaining Binsted's Rights of Way

After the wettest February on record, most of our footpaths and bridleways are affected by muddy, slippery conditions – some are even flooded and impassable. Even with the onset of meteorological spring and its warmer temperatures, these conditions will persist for a while. When venturing out on the Rights of Way network, do make sure that you are wearing appropriate footwear with a good grip – my wellies have seen more action this winter than they have for a long time! Take particular care on routes with steep gradients and flights of steps which can be very slippery at this time of year.

Like many, when I am out walking with my dogs, I like to stride out at a pace that gets the heart pumping. However, at this time of year, with the arrival of many songbirds, I find myself taking a ten or fifteen minute break where I sit or stand quite still and just listen to what is going on around me in the trees and hedgerows. At first, this confused the dogs, who looked at me inquiringly, but now they seem to have accepted this as the new way and take the opportunity to explore for a while, coming back to check whether I have snapped out of it. I have never been able to easily identify birds by their distinctive songs, so I decided to get some tuition. I only have a few apps on my smartphone that I ever use when out walking – mainly OSMaps for occasional

navigation and Strava to measure distances. I have now added a rather excellent one called Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Labs. Using this app, you can have your phone listen out for birdsong and identify any birds that it has on its database, complete with a picture. It highlights the bird that is singing at the moment. You can save these recordings and replay them later if you wish. On one recent ten minute session I (and my phone) heard Blackbird, Robin, Redwing, Songthrush, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Wren, Goldcrest, Firecrest and a Jay! I can highly recommend the app, and I am now able to identify many birds without my phone's assistance. Things can only get better, as Spring progresses.

The Rail to Trail Walking Festival starts imminently and runs from 6-14 April. All walks start and end at a SWR railway station and there are a range of over twenty, for walkers of all abilities. The walks all have expert leaders who are a mine of information about their local areas. Locally, walks include Bentley, Binsted and the Alice Holt Forest. Slightly further away, you can explore Frensham and Bourne as well as the Devil's Punchbowl. At the extremities of the county, there are walks in the New Forest and on the Isle of Wight, for the more adventurous. You can browse the various walks and book a place at <https://hillstoharbourcrp.co.uk/rail-to-trail/>

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.



BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The Bentley Memorial Hall Association 100+ Club

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

- 1st Helen Curwen
- 2nd Bill & Chris Whitfield
- 3rd Penelope Robinson

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.

Sudoku March Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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

Have you seen this insect?

Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*

What is it?

A highly aggressive predator of native insects that poses a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Originally from Asia, in 2004 this invasive non-native species was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK.



Slightly smaller than the native European hornet. May be confused with other species, shown below in actual size for comparison.



Asian hornet



European hornet



Median wasp



Hornet mimic
hoverfly



Woodwasp

Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls. Active February to November across England and Wales.

**This insect stings,
do not disturb an
active nest.**

Please report sightings immediately with a photo:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Find out
more and
report a
sighting:



02

February 2024

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

16.5°C (15th) to 7.8°C (25th)

2 days above 15°C and 4 days below 10°C



Nighttime minimum

- 3.4°C (24th) to 11.4°C (14th)

7 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

4.16 inches (105.6 mm) over 22 days



Wettest days

0.95 inches (24.2 mm) (8th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South South West



Maximum gust

30 mph (6th)

Parish Weatherman



THE WICKHAM INSTITUTE (VILLAGE HALL), BINSTED

www.wickhaminstitute.co.uk



The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

As promised, listed below are the lucky winners of the
March 2024 draws:

March 2024

1st prize Claire Fargeot

2nd prize Sam Barrow

3rd prize Graham Clague

Details of the April 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

News from the Bentley Bell Tower – or ringing the changes

As reported in February's magazine, the bells at Bentley remain silent but there has been progress behind the scenes on identifying the work that needs to be done to allow them to be rung again.

The immediate issue is that various fittings which allow the bells to be rung are simply worn out and this has resulted in a couple of injuries to our bell ringers. Hence the decision to take the bells out of action until these fittings can be replaced: The last refurbishment was made in 1912, so the bells and fittings have served the parish well!

Beyond a short-term repair which will allow St Mary's bells to ring out again, we are planning a much bigger project to fully renovate the running gear and augment the current ring of six to eight, by adding a new treble and second. This will complete the work that was intended in 1912, when Gillett & Johnson installed a bell frame for eight bells. During that work, four of the original Samuel Knight bells from 1703 were recast – the five and the tenor are still the original Samuel Knight bells. Interestingly, the recast bells are numbered 3 to 6 and it seems likely that the plan to add Bells 1 and 2 was shelved at the start of the Great War.

This work will also include an essential upgrade to the electrics, which are estimated to have been installed some 60 years ago. We are also planning to clean, re-tune, and re-hang the bells and to refurbish the bell frame. We have arranged for four firms of bell engineers to visit to provide quotes for the work and are waiting to receive these,



but as a ballpark based on other local tower refurbishment projects, we are likely to be looking at some £60-70,000 before VAT.

We are very grateful to Jack Regin, Captain of the Binsted Bell Tower and the District Maintenance Officer for the Alton and Petersfield District within the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers, for his advice and for co-ordinating the bell engineer visits.

Several other interesting facts have come to light from these visits. Whilst we were aware that the bells were restored in 1912, other fittings are earlier, so it is little wonder that they now require replacement. The bells have also been identified as of a design by Canon Henry T. Ellacombe, who was notable in the late 19th century for improvements in belfry design. There is mention of the Bentley bells in The Bell News and Ringers Record of 7 June 1890:

“BENTLEY HAMPSHIRE

The six bells of this church, tenor 14 cwt., have all been rehung with complete new fittings, and they have also been quarter-turned. The work has been satisfactorily carried out by Mr Harry Stokes, Church Bell Hanger of Woodbury, near Exeter. They were re-opened after being silent for several years on May 14th, by six clergymen, members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, who were all highly pleased with the “go” of them.”

Our current plan is to tackle the required work in two phases. The first phase would see essential repairs to the fittings and work on the electrics to enable the bells to be rung on a limited basis for events such as weddings, major festivals and commemorative events. We have been generously allocated a grant of £1,000 from the Bentley Fete and Flower Show Committee towards this work and a further £1,000 has been received from East Hampshire District Council via their Local Councillor Grant scheme (in which respect we are most grateful to Councillor David Ashcroft for his support). But we still need to find the remainder of the estimated £3,500 - £4,000 cost for this phase. Our hope is to complete this work before the end of May in time for those couples marrying at St Mary's who have requested bells.

The second phase of work would comprise the full restoration of the belfry and will necessitate a significant fund-raising effort. We will provide a further update once all the bell engineer quotes have been received.

We would be hugely grateful for any donations towards the costs of re-instating and improving our much-loved bells and if you would like to contribute, please do contact Steve Fice, Bentley PCC Treasurer, at steve.fice@btinternet.com.

Thank you



<https://tinyurl.com/pmzdx48u>



Don't miss Binsted's 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Last year's Annual Parish Meeting was very well attended: we're hoping this year's will be even better!

We have some interesting guest speakers lined up.

We'll be discussing Local Plans and Traffic.

Councillors want to tell you what they've been doing in the past year and get your views on future plans.

Refreshments will be provided. And we hope to see people from all parts of our big parish.

Save the date. We'd love to see you there.



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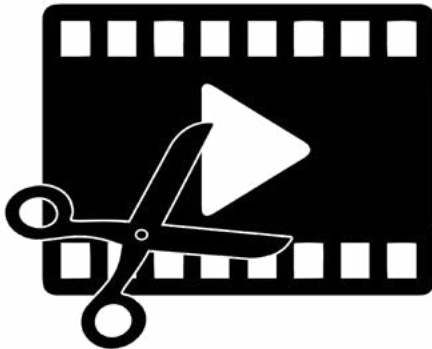
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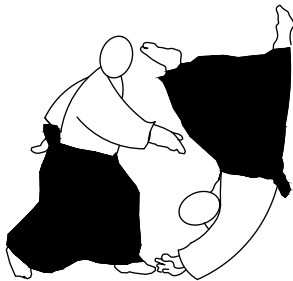


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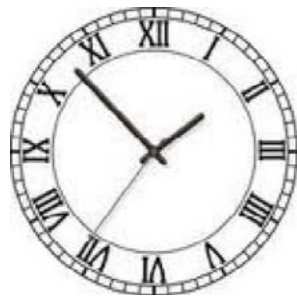
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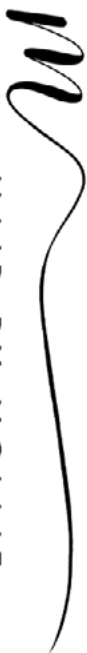
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GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

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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
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Binsted School

Headteacher: Sharron Morton 01420 23200

Fête and Flower Show

Matt Arrowsmith
thebinstedfete@gmail.com

Tennis and Croquet Club Chairman:

Chair: Nial Dunne 01420 22922 nial.dunne@sky.com
Secretary - Graham Jones 07825 201 541
Website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/btcc/>

Growmore Club Secretary:

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

April Services


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

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

21st April 9:30am Froyle Morning Worship
11am Kingsley Holy Communion
4pm Binsted Messy Church 🌸



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

 **Children's Provision**
While all of our services are family friendly, the services indicated are especially catered towards children.



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