

MAY 2024

Bentley & Binsted

PARISH MAGAZINE



FEATURING

Binsted School News 10

Alton Camera Club 24

B-Fest 31

Bentley Station Meadow 34

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Paul Booker: I Can See You

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Parish Magazine

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Benefice Letter

This month sees three great festivals of the Christian Church: Pentecost, Ascension Day and Trinity Sunday. Tucked away in the lesser commemorations, on 8th May, is the day to remember and celebrate Julian of Norwich. Julian was a 14th century Christian mystic and the first woman to have her works published in English by name. She lived in a small room attached to one of the many medieval churches in Norwich, never leaving it and spending her time in prayer and contemplation. Her most famous phrase is that, because of God's love towards us, "All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well."

When I was working in the prison service, my predecessor left a quote on the noticeboard which read, "Everything will be fine in the end, if it's not fine, it's not the end." For many, these may sound like the hopeless and groundless wishful thinking of an eternal optimist. Just look at the news, Gaza and the Ukraine, and you can see that all is not well and no easy options for resolution are in view.

If we do not subscribe to belief in God, then we are left with a hope in human progress and the development of a social ethic which will give us the tools and motivation to work for good for all. Yet, as the recent film Oppenheimer shows us, groundbreaking theoretical leaps in science, can, when explored for their practical outcomes, lead to weapons of mass destruction and even greater moral questions. As Oppenheimer said after the successful Trinity test firing of the first atomic bomb, and quoting the Bhagavad Gita, "I am become death, the destroyer of worlds."

Science is a wonderful gift and is in no competition with faith, but scientism, the belief in only science as the way we will solve our problems and find our purpose is hopelessly flawed. The evidence shows we use science against ourselves as well as for ourselves and the ecological consequences are real.

We pray with all our might that Vladimir Putin will not be tempted to fulfil his threat of using nuclear weapons against Ukraine or NATO. We hope that the prospect of nuclear escalation is enough of a deterrent for anyone now, or in the future. Perhaps T.S. Eliot will be proved right in his poem, The Hollow Men, "this is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper."

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However, believing in a God whose very nature is love, offers a very different outcome and future for humanity and the world. The Bible is clear, that throughout history, God acts. He hears the cry of the oppressed and opposes the arrogant and proud. He overturns empires and encourages his people to learn, question, create, explore and above all, to love. We are encouraged to believe that he has a plan. That he intervenes to limit the worst of our evils and always calls us to back home to himself. In relationship with God, we become fully human. St Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in God."

God's promise, is that one day, we will not train for war anymore and that peace and justice will cover the earth, as God's kingdom over all is established. So far from the pious wishes of an eccentric medieval hermit. Julian of Norwich is correct in saying, "All will be well." It takes faith to see, and faith to work towards, but in the end, God will restore and rescue his world. As Jesus says,

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me." John 14:4

Matt Boyes

Vicar of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle



Starting at 4pm supper provided

WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	30	1	2	3 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 9:30am Bentley Morning Worship & Children's Church (year R-6)
13 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	14	15	16	17 5pm four:twelve (year 5-7)	18	19 4pm Froyle Messy Church (families)
20 6:30pm UNITE @ The Kings Arms (year 7+)	21	22	23	24	25	26 9:30am Bentley Holy Communion & Children's Church (year R-6)
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



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



Binsted Church needs your help...



Might you be able to join us in maintaining our village's heritage for today and the future?

The congregation needs the community's support to care for, maintain and conserve this Grade 1 listed building.

The PCC are keen to set up a Friends of Holy Cross Church, Binsted, scheme but we need VOLUNTEERS to help with this.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- a) To support in the practical care and maintenance of the Church building
- b) To raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of the fabric and contents of the Church.
- c) To support the development of the Church building for other community events alongside regular worship.
- d) To encourage enjoyment and appreciation of the Church and its use by the whole community.

Please help us and get in touch even if you are not a regular worshipper in the church but you are passionate about the building and it being in the Village for future generations to use. Thank you.

Please contact Matt Boyes or Angela Dunne
for further information
matt@benbinfro.co.uk angela1dunne@sky.com

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL

SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024

Doors open 10am until 12 noon



**COME AND BUY PLANTS
AND VEGETABLES FOR
YOUR GARDEN AT
EXCELLENT PRICES.**

in conjunction with

**THE REGULAR SATURDAY
CAFÉ**





**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.**



LOTTERY FUNDED

Come and join the
Bentley Garden Club coach outings to:

The Garden Show at Stansted Park
Sunday 9 June 2024

Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee.
The coach will leave Bentley Memorial Hall @ 10 am.
AND



Chelsea Physic Garden

Wednesday 11th September 2024

Cost £25 per head to include entrance fee.
The time coach will leave Bentley Memorial Hall tba.



If you are interested in joining us for either trip,
please contact Trish Cardy
(01420 22325 / trishcardy@yahoo.co.uk)



School News - Binsted CE Primary

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

Oak class (Reception) have had a fantastic spring term. We have been learning about planets in the solar system; it has been great fun dressing up as astronauts, making rockets so we can visit the moon and other planets, we even had a space station in our outdoor area to do our research.

We have spent a lot of time on subitising (instantly recognising numbers up to 5), doubling numbers, 2D and 3D shapes. The resources in our classroom and outdoor area have been a huge help in helping us to grasp the concept of repeated patterns, creating shapes, playing games that have helped develop our number fluency.

It's quite incredible the progress that has been made in Reception class. The children have been working on their phase two and three sounds in phonics and are now able to segment and blend words, reading full sentences. They enjoy drawing club which allows them to use their imagination and develop their language and skills.

The children have enjoyed making bread and making sandwiches. They were able to follow a simple recipe and order the steps taken, saving the best part to last, eating them!

During spring term we had World Book Day and the children loved coming in dressed up as their favourite characters from 'the hungry caterpillar' to 'Spiderman' and many more. The children enjoyed sharing and talking about their favourites books. Following on from World Book Day the class were taken into Alton to collect their free World Book Day book from Waterstones, after that they made a trip to the library to find and share amazing stories that inspire them.



Not to forget Mother's Day, the children made beautiful flower cards and tissue paper flowers for their lovely mummy's/ grandparents/carers. It was lovely to see how thoughtful and caring the children could be and how important it was to them to provide something special for their loved ones.

This year has flown by and with the summer term in sight, we want to make sure their last term in year R is fun and fantastic! We want to make sure our little ones continue to grow in confidence and independence ready for year 1.



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



Community Grants from Binsted Parish Council

Each year Binsted Parish Council sets aside some funding (typically around £5,000) to award as small grants to local organisations, for activities that benefit people living in the parish.

Any organisation which contributes to wider community life can apply, including community associations, clubs, local charities and local branches of national charitable organisations. We cannot, though, provide grants that only benefit specific individuals, or commercial enterprises.

Last year grants ranged from £50 to over £1,000, and included funds towards maintenance and repairs to our parish churches, playground improvements at Rowledge Primary School, equipment and running costs of East Hants Citizens Advice and Hampshire Victim Support.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that these grants contribute towards the life of our community in a wide variety of ways and across a wide variety of organisations. And so we welcome grant applications big or small, for existing activities and initiatives, or for a new project or idea.

To apply for funding you will need to complete a short form that can be found on our website <https://binstedparishcouncil.org.uk/news/community-grants-from-binsted-parish-council> that asks for information about what you want funding for, how it will benefit the community, and some financial information about the activity and the organisation you are applying on behalf of. The closing date for applications is **31 May**. Application assessments and decisions will be made by the Parish Council at the Full Council Meeting in June.

If you are unsure about whether you can apply, want to discuss an idea for an application, or have any questions about completing the form then please contact me at clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk, call 07483 310631, or pop in to see me at the Pavilion at the Binsted Recreation Ground.

Mike Mordecai
Binsted Parish Council Clerk



Jumble Sale

2nd Bentley Scout Group

Saturday 18th May 2024

Scout Hut, School Lane Bentley GU10 5JP

Doors open at 2:00pm

Entrance Fee 50p

Patrons are requested to take any contributions to the
Scout Hut by 12:00 noon on the day
(Unfortunately, we have been unable to borrow a van to collect large items)

More Information call Bob on 07769 906745
(Unfortunately, we are no longer able to accept beds,
TVs, 3-piece suites or cookers)

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

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



Jazz Afternoon at the Hampton Estate

Enjoy an enchanting afternoon of jazz in the beautiful private gardens of the Hampton Estate, Seale, on Sunday 2nd June, from 1-5.30pm. This exclusive event, held in aid of local Hospice Care charity Phyllis Tuckwell, is a delightful way to enjoy some time with family and friends in an idyllic setting, and raise money for a vital local charity.

You will be greeted with a welcome drink on arrival, along with delicious summer berries and ice cream, and are invited to bring along your own picnic to enjoy on the lawn, whilst taking in the herbaceous borders, walled garden and far-reaching views of this stunning Repton-designed landscape. Whilst exploring this wonderful location, you may find that you recognise some areas. Poirot -The Hollow, Mothering Sunday, Midsummer Murders and Ammonite, to name just a few, all include scenes which were filmed here, so have a wander around and see if you can spot any backdrops that look familiar!

From 3-5pm The Barnes Big Band, a 16-piece jazz orchestra, will play music from jazz legends Quincy Jones, Francy Boland, Sammy Nestico and Lennie Niehaus, as well as original music composed by Eddie Harvey, Kenny Woodman and Steve Darlington. Refreshments and raffle tickets will be available to purchase, and a pop-up Phyllis Tuckwell stall will be selling a range of items from its shops.

“We are delighted to invite you to this exclusive event at such a beautiful location,” said Ruth Masters, Head of Fundraising at Phyllis Tuckwell. “We are very grateful to Bill

& Bridget Biddell and the Hampton Estate for opening up their gardens and offering to host this wonderful afternoon of jazz. We are also grateful to Grantley Homes & Lettings who are kindly sponsoring the event. All of the money raised will go directly towards helping us care for our patients and their loved ones, who really need our specialist supportive and end of life care.”

Every day, Phyllis Tuckwell supports over 250 patients, relatives and carers, through medical and nursing care, therapies, counselling, social work advice and practical support. However, as the NHS/Government usually only covers about 20% of its costs, it has to raise over £25,000 a day to do this.

Tickets are £50 per person and include your welcome drink, plus a treat of summer berries with ice cream, but there are a limited number available, so make sure you don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enjoy a summer afternoon of jazz at this beautiful location. You can buy your tickets now at: www.pth.org.uk/jazz-in-the-garden

You are welcome to bring your own chairs and picnic blankets along to make yourselves comfortable on the lawn. It is a short walk from the car park to the venue, and the venue and parking are both wheelchair accessible. Please note, no dogs allowed. Tickets will be emailed to you as soon as you have purchased them. Each ticket will contain a unique QR code which will be scanned upon entry to the event.



Jazz in the Garden at Hampton Estate



Starring
'The Barnes Big Band'



Kindly sponsored by



Sunday 2nd June, 2024, 1pm-5.30pm

Hampton Estate, Elstead Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 1JE

Bring your picnic and enjoy an afternoon of music by 'The Barnes Big Band' 16 piece jazz orchestra, whilst also exploring the stunning Hampton Estate gardens, including the herbaceous borders, walled garden and far reaching views in a Repton landscape.

Gardens opens for viewing & picnics - 1pm ~ Jazz concert - 3pm-5pm with a short interval
Event closes at 5.30pm ~ 100% proceeds to Phyllis Tuckwell.

TICKETS £50 - including a welcome drink, & a delicious treat of summer berries and ice cream (dairy free alternative available)

To purchase tickets or for more information:

 pth.org.uk/event/jazz-in-the-garden

 01252 729446

 support@pth.org.uk

Find us on:   Phyllis Tuckwell, Waverley Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8BL
Phyllis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice Ltd. Registered Charity No. 1063033. Registered Charity Number 264501.



BENTLEY MEMORIAL HALL



The perfect venue for celebrations, children's parties, meetings, exercise classes or exhibitions. The Hall is conveniently located in the centre of the village and has kitchen facilities and ample car parking.

Downstairs accommodates events for up to 100 people across two rooms.

Upstairs accommodates events for up to 20 people and is ideal for meetings.

***Room for hire – 7 days a week**



Did you know the upstairs room in the Memorial Hall (Hugh Barton Room) now has its own entrance, kitchen and toilet facility? This means it can be used while the nursery is downstairs. The room is ideal for exercise classes, committee meetings and similar.

The Bentley Memorial Hall 100+ Club

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

1st Adrian & Linda Job 2nd Christine Goodyear 3rd Jim Munro

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 to 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.

To join the 100+ Club, please e-mail a request to bentleymemorialhall@gmail.com.

For room bookings and additional information about the Hall, further details, please visit our website www.bentleymemorialhall.org.

* The upstairs room has no disabled access and is not suitable for children.

Peggy Guggenheim: Petersfield to Palazzo



The Guggenheim name is synonymous with the great cities of New York, Bilbao and Venice, but less so with an historic market town in Hampshire. However, an exhibition opening in the summer of 2024 is aiming to change that.

Before buying the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni and the garden behind it in Venice in 1949, for five years (between 1934 and 1939), world-famous 20th-century patron and collector of modern art Peggy Guggenheim (1898-1979) lived at Yew Tree Cottage near Petersfield.

Featuring a focused selection of artworks once owned by the self-described 'art addict', Peggy Guggenheim: Petersfield to Palazzo will show together paintings and sculptures by leading British and European modern artists including Henry Moore (1898-1986), Yves Tanguy (1900-1955), Max Ernst (1891-1976), Jean Arp (1886-1966) and John Tunnard (1900-1971) amongst others. A variety of photographs, contemporary fashion items and literature will give further context to the fascinating life and times of Peggy Guggenheim.

The exhibition includes loans from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice – whose Director, Karole P. B. Vail, is Peggy Guggenheim's elder granddaughter.

In 1938, aged 39, Peggy Guggenheim opened Guggenheim Jeune, an art gallery in London, beginning a career that would significantly influence the course of art in the second half of the 20th-century. Encouraged by her friend, Irish novelist Samuel Beckett (1906-1989), Guggenheim dedicated herself to contemporary art as if it

was "a living thing," while Marcel Duchamp (1897-1968) introduced her to other artists and taught her, as she put it, "the difference between abstract and Surrealist art." The gallery's first show presented works by Jean Cocteau (1889-1963), and the second was the first solo exhibition of works by Wassily Kandinsky (1886-1944) in the UK, followed by solo shows given to Yves Tanguy and Rita Kernn-Larsen (1904-1988), among others.

The exhibition at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery aims to explore the multitude of literary, artistic, and intellectual figures of the period with whom Guggenheim interacted and reveal the fascinating untold story of her life in the town and neighbouring West Sussex through her family, friends and lovers.

Peggy Guggenheim inherited her share of the family fortune seven years after her father, Benjamin Guggenheim, died during the Titanic's doomed maiden voyage from England to the United States in 1912. On her 21st birthday, she became financially independent. However, in defiance of the conventions and traditions of her upbringing, in 1920 she was a clerk at the modern bookshop in New York, The Sunwise Turn. Here, she encountered avant-garde writers and artists, including Laurence Vail (1891-1968) whom she married and had two children, Sindbad and Pegeen.

Before long though, Guggenheim arrived in Paris and soon found herself at the heart of the city's bohème and American expatriate society.

By the summer of 1934, she had relocated, this time with her current partner Douglas Garman (1903-1969),

and was renting Warblington Castle, near Langstone, in Hampshire. Soon after, Guggenheim bought Yew Tree Cottage, situated on the road between South Harting and Petersfield, and put it in Douglas' name.

Initially, Guggenheim lived there with Pegeen (while Sindbad lived with her ex-husband Laurence Vail in Austria) but Garman soon moved in with his daughter Debbie. Debbie, her cousin, Kitty Garman (1926-2011) and Pegeen all attended the local Winton House Preparatory School on Petersfield High Street. In the spring of 1935, Sindbad returned to England and between 1936 - 1939 he boarded at Bedales School, Steep, near Petersfield.

Far from her glamorous life as an heiress and art collector, Guggenheim noted that everyday life in Yew Tree Cottage involved such day-to-day things as draughty rooms, water pumps, cooking and trips into Petersfield. A selection of paintings by Flora Twort (1893-1985) of Petersfield and Langstone will complement the exhibition and give a sense of the places and scenes that would have been familiar to Guggenheim at this time. During this period, Yew Tree Cottage was host to Yves Tanguy, who carved a ring for Guggenheim from rosewood grown in the garden. It will be on display in the exhibition, kindly on loan from The Penrose Collection.

By February 1939, Guggenheim was considering a new, more ambitious project and had asked Herbert Read to help her establish a modern art museum in London. She wrote: "We are going to have publications and lectures and be a general living art centre and of course give exhibitions of art." The outbreak of the Second World War interrupted her plans, but the list of artists Read had made in preparation for the scheme did inform Guggenheim's growing collection and, in turn became

the basis for her gallery in New York and ultimately her collection in Venice.

Peggy Guggenheim left London and moved to Paris in late 1939. She remained in Paris for a while (where she amassed the bulk of her collection), but then had to leave during the war, in 1941. She returned to New York for a few years (1942-1947) before making Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, overlooking the Grand Canal, her home for the following thirty years.

Writing in her memoir *Out of this Century*, she said: "I loved Europe more than America, and when the war ended, I couldn't wait to go back. ... On my way there, I decided Venice would be my future home. I had always loved it more than any place on earth and felt I would be happy alone there."

After some interior remodelling and with the collection finally installed, in 1951 Guggenheim began to open her home and collection to the public, free of charge, three afternoons a week from Easter to November, and continued to do so until her death in 1979.

From June 2024, some of the treasures held in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection are travelling to Britain, representing a rare opportunity to see them outside of 'La Serenissima', as Louise Weller, Head of Collections and Exhibitions at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery explains: "This will not be a standard art exhibition, as it is a unique opportunity to use the multi-disciplinary character of Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery; combining artwork, photography, fashion and literature, to tell an often

overlooked part of Peggy Guggenheim's extraordinary life."

Karole P. B. Vail says, "It will be wonderful to have an exhibition exploring an unexpected and wonderful little-known chapter in Peggy Guggenheim's eventful life before she began her life as a committed patron of the arts."

The exhibition has been made possible thanks to the generous support of the following organisations and individual donations:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



There will be an illustrated publication to accompany the exhibition, with essays by Louise Weller and Karole P.B. Vail.

BENTLEY GARDEN CLUB



Tuesday 7th May 2024 – our April meeting will be as usual at 7.30pm. The meeting will take place at the Bentley Memorial Hall in the Denis Smith room.

At this meeting, Peter Herring will be giving a talk on Winkworth Arboretum.

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

Date for your diary

Saturday 11th May 2024 – Our annual Plant Sale at the Memorial Hall from 10am to 12 noon. If you have any plants that you wish to donate, please bring them to the Memorial Hall either on the Friday evening from 6pm to 7pm or on the Saturday morning before we open at 10am. If you are able to spare half an hour or so to help on the Saturday, we would love to see you.

Sunday 9th June 2024 – Trip to Stansted House Flower Show. If you are interested in joining this coach trip, please contact Trish Cardy as soon as possible (trishcardy@yahoo.co.uk).

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.

Easter Family Fun Day

Saturday 23rd March, 2024

Wow! This year's Easter Fun Day was certainly one to remember.

If it was a Friends episode, we would call it 'The One With The Blizzard!!!'

We would like to put out a huge thank you to everyone who helped or came to enjoy the Binsted Easter Fun Day. Together, we raised over £1000, which is just incredible!

We want to give special thanks to Holy Cross Church for the Easter gardens and crafts, as well as for running the refreshment stall and, of course, hosting the day on our beautiful village church grounds. Also, we offer special thanks to the outstanding mums, dads, and grandparents of FOBS. From risk assessments, tethering down gazebos and bouncy castles in such high winds, to arranging the raffle and keeping the magic alive as the Easter Bunny herself. Without this incredible bunch of people, we could not have created such a magical day for the children. To our school children, thank you for helping to set up and take



down the day, running the Easter Challenges, and singing as part of the school choir. Our neighbours for their support. Thanks to our wonderful teachers, teaching assistants, and support staff for giving up their Saturdays to help.

It was amazing with so much chocolate. So indescribable!! I could feel the joy spreading. There was a challenge to win a humongous chocolate bunny. You had to find where the Easter Bunny lived on a map. But the problem was no one knew where the Easter Bunny lived! In the end, Felix won the chocolate bunny. Some of Binsted school (including me!) sang Spring Chicken, The Easter song and a pop medley from Young Voices. There was also a raffle for books, hampers, plants and stuff for your pets. My



Grandad and Grandma won the orange hamper! My family clapped and cheered! I loved that I could bounce on the bouncy castle, it was a lovely end to the day.

Alba, Beech Class.

My favourite part was doing all the obstacles around the church. I liked throwing the wellies, scoring goals and trying to balance the egg on the spoon. When you finished each one, you got given a letter that made the word 'cross'. The hot dogs were delicious too!!

Huey, Beech Class.



I liked making the Easter gardens because I enjoyed putting all the different stuff in. I really liked putting the moss in and digging the tunnels. That was cool! I played Twinkle,

Twinkle Little Star with the bells and at the back of the church I rang the proper bell and I loved it! Easter Fun Days are lots of fun!!

Chloe, Rowan Class.



CHORAL CONCERT BY CANTIQUÉ IN AID OF THE HOLY CROSS SPIRE APPEAL



We are delighted to announce that Cantique will once again be staging a concert in Holy Cross Church in aid of our ongoing spire appeal. 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.

The concert, followed by light refreshments, will take place on the evening of Friday 31st May. As before, entry will be by donation and details of the exact timings and the programme will be announced nearer the time. Do make a note of this in your diary now to avoid disappointment.

All are welcome to join us for what promises to be a really special evening.

If you would like any more information please contact me (Stella Croom-Johnson) on 07740 861256.

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. Their current exhibition is in the Gallery until 12th May.

Re:Connecting - Habitats, Wildlife, People - an exhibition of work by ceramicist Bridget Macklin and photographer Alex Potts, delivered in partnership with The Friends of Blacknest Fields, Binsted Parish Council and Alton Natural History Society.

Nature is infinitely varied, essential to our own survival and brings joy. But our wildlife is in steep decline. Vast areas of natural habitat have been destroyed, the vital connections between sites and species severed, and our own lives divorced from nature. We can and must act to reverse these trends, since we break the connections at our peril.

This exhibition of specially commissioned ceramics and photography celebrates the restoration of a local site for nature and demonstrates the power and joy of community action in reconnecting habitats, wildlife and people. We hope it will inspire

others to act, by showing that declines in biodiversity can be reversed when enthusiastic volunteers collaborate with experts, bringing benefits to wildlife and people. **15th May - 23rd June.**

There will be a [programme of events](#) for local schools and the public, run in association with The Friends of **Blacknest Fields** and **Alton Natural History Society**, which will amplify the exhibition's messages within the wider community.

For more information on planned activities please visit:

Blacknest Fields Project
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/491868806032065>

Alton Natural History Society
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/altonnaturalhistorysoc>

GALLERY WORKSHOPS

Raw Clay workshop - Saturday 18th May, 2-4pm.

Join ceramicist Bridget Macklin to create 'seedy beasties' using clay mixed with wildflower seed. Then take your creations home and leave them outside, where sun and rain will help the seeds to grow into a wildflower patch in

your garden. *Part of the programme of events to accompany the exhibition Re:Connecting – Habitats, Wildlife, People.* Tickets £12.00 per participant, suitable for anyone aged 8+. Please book on the Gallery website.

Street Stories - woodwork and 2D/3D assembly workshop - Monday 27th May, sessions bookable from 10am - 2pm.

Join the Street Stories team and learn to make a character from a book, myth or legend that can be part of the exciting local Street Stories art project for Alton Arts Festival.

£5, pay on the day. Email streetstories@altonartsfestival.com to book a place.

Moths at Night - Tuesday 28th May, 8.45pm - 10.30pm.

An opportunity to explore the night life of the Gallery's Garden and learn how light traps are used to study moths. Led by moth expert Chris Piper. Free event, suitable for adults and accompanied older children.

Marvellous Moths and Minibeasts - Wednesday 29th May, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Discover the wonderful mix of moths found

flying in the Garden last night, then hunt for beetles and bugs, snails and slugs and all sorts of other minibeasts hiding among our pots and plants. Led by expert naturalists June Chatfield and Chris Piper.

Free event, suitable for adults and children of all ages.

TALK

St Mary's Church - Raising the Roof - a talk by Chris Walker, arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery. Thursday 9th May at 7.30. FREE.

ALLEN GALLERY FILM NIGHT

May's film is **Past Lives**, a story of childhood, lost love and romance, in Korean and English. It was rated as a "must watch" with 95% on the Rotten Tomatoes review site. **Saturday 11th May**, tickets available online at the Gallery website.

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

Sudoku April Answers

Sudoku EASY

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

Sudoku MEDIUM

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

Sudoku HARD

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



Paul Booker: I Can See You

Alton Camera Club

At Alton Camera Club we're fortunate to welcome many interesting speakers, but one of the highlights over the past season has been the talk by our own club member, Mike Beaumont, on 'Africa, Land of the Giants'. Mike has travelled extensively to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and has produced stunning images of the birds and animals that inhabit the continent, which he shared with us. He entertained us with facts and stories and shared news of the marvellous work undertaken by the Born Free Foundation to ensure that all animals, whether in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect. His presentation left us in awe of this magical continent and its beautiful creatures and, of course, Mike's talent as a wildlife photographer.

In a busy month for competitions, we held the final round of the PDI (Pro-

jected Digital Image) League. Judged by Dr. Barry Senior (HonFRPS APAGB), he awarded ten points to "The Pottery Class" by Olwen Par-ton, "I Can See You" by Paul Booker, "Hot Night for the Chicago Blues" and "You Rest, I'll Keep a Lookout", both by Tony Cole. Our theme for the third round of the PDI Challenge was 'Sport and Games' and was won by Tony Cole for "It's All About Speed, Effort and Determination". In second place was Kelvin Perry with "Grabbing Some Air". Tony was also placed third for "Wing Foiling with Wind Surfers". Lynne Harles scored ten points and was Highly Commended for "Hon-ouring the King".

Our yearly 'Triangular' competition pitted Alton against AFFCC (Alder-shot, Farnham and Fleet Camera Club) and Basingstoke Camera Club. Alton emerged victorious with '10's awarded



to Tony Cole for "Love You Big Brother" and Lynne Harles for "Southsea Sunset".

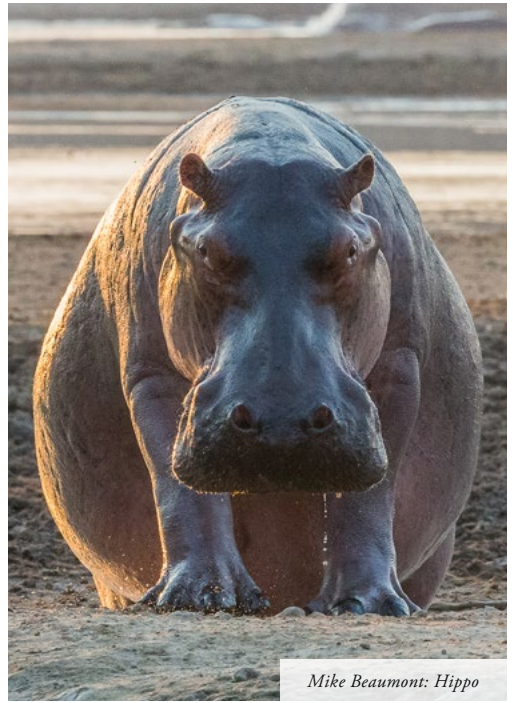
The field trips programme took us to London for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations and to Portsmouth, where we were fortunate enough to witness the homecoming of HMS Prince of Wales returning from NATO exercises in Norway.

Our members continue to have success outside club competitions. Lynne Harles' image "Autumnal Feeling" has been published in 'Stretchy Trees', a book by internationally-recognised ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) photographer David Day. Alongside this, Wendy Davies has had her image selected for the [#Gallery365](#) display at the Photo North festival in Leeds on

12th to 14th April. Wendy has also been showcased for one week by Women In Street, a street photography collaborative and publication for women photographers.

Our season is drawing to a close with one competition left, the annual 'His n' Hers' competition, which will be judged by local artist, Toni Goffe. We look forward to a talk by magazine and documentary photographer, Homer Sykes, hosted by Farnham U3A and a trip to Alresford and Hinton Ampner where we hope to be greeted with carpets of bluebells.

Alton Camera Club will break for the summer in May and resume for the new season in September. We welcome new members, whether beginners or experts. We meet at Holybourne Village Hall. Please see our website www.altoncameraclub.org.uk and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @altoncameraclub



Mike Beaumont: Hippo



Tony Cole: It's All About Speed, Effort and Determination



Renee Smith: St Patricks Day



Olwen Parton: The Pottery Class



Steve Emmerson: HMS Prince of Wales



Kelvin Perry: Grabbing Some Air



The darling buds of May

Shakespeare's sonnet, from which this phrase is lifted, may have been written with a good-looking young man in mind, but there can be no doubt it was the blossoming of *Crataegus monogyna* – good old hawthorn – that inspired the imagery.

More than any other tree, the hawthorn has helped to shape the countryside of Britain through its use in hedgerows; even its name comes from the Anglo-Saxon Hagedorn, meaning 'hedge thorn'.

But would it still be as important to us were it not for its impeccable timing? It goes by many names, but one of these is 'mayflower'. The true buds of may burst in February, and come in to leaf through March, but the first flowers appear in April, and the tree is out in all its full glory for early May; as are the young humans whom Shakespeare so admired. Back in the day these would go 'a-maying', heading off into the woods, to reappear only at dawn, loaded down with hawthorn blossom as evidence of their earnest intentions. These days, who knows what they get up to!

We lost 11 days in 1752, with the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, and nobody thought to tell *Crataegus*, but we have already clawed most of that back with the onset of global warming.

There are two conflicting pieces of meteorological advice that emerge from all this. The well-known advice is:

'Cast ne'er a clout 'til May is out'

Most authorities agree that this does not mean you have to wait for the end of May to shed layers of clothes, but rather that you should be good once the may blossom is showing, earlier in the month.

On the other hand:

'When the hawthorn bloom too early shows,

We shall still have many snows.'

You pay your money and you take your pick. But can we really say we're any better informed by our latter-day, AI-powered forecasts?

Berries and flowers were harvested to make jellies, wines and liqueurs for the winter larder; in times of hunger, the fresh leaves were picked to fill empty stomachs, giving rise to the old name of 'bread and cheese'. I remember, as a lad, I'd heard this, and so, of course, I tried it. I have to say, I wasn't impressed. But then, I never went hungry.

Fortunately, I wasn't tempted to take some home with me. It seems the tree can tolerate a reasonable amount of pruning, without dire consequences, but taking so much as a branch indoors with you can invite down sickness and death. Hawthorn was never brought into the home. It was believed that bringing hawthorn blossom inside would be followed by illness and death, and in medieval times it was said that hawthorn blossom smelled like the Great Plague. Botanists later learned that the chemical trimethylamine in hawthorn blossom is also one of the first

chemicals formed in decaying animal tissue, so it is not surprising that hawthorn flowers are associated with death.

Hawthorns are hermaphrodite, meaning both male and female reproductive parts are contained within each flower. Flowers are highly scented, white or occasionally pink with five petals, and grow in flat-topped clusters. The flowers of common hawthorn have a single stigma, whereas Midland hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) has two. Hawthorn can support hundreds of other species. It is the foodplant for caterpillars of moths, including the hawthorn, orchard ermine, pear leaf blister, rhomboid tortrix, light emerald, lackey, vapourer, fruitlet-mining tortrix, small eggar and lappet moths. Its flowers are eaten by dormice and provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. The haws are rich in antioxidants and are eaten by migrating birds, such as redwings, fieldfares and thrushes, as well as small mammals.

The dense, thorny foliage makes fantastic nesting shelter for many species of bird.

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

WANTED. Have you seen an Asian Hornet?

SEE IT. SNAP IT. APP IT.

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Download on the App Store

What is the Asian Hornet?

Asian Hornets (*Vespa velutina*) are an incredibly destructive invasive species that specialise in preying on honeybee hives - one Asian Hornet alone can kill 30-80 honeybees per day. They also prey on other pollinators.

First discovered in the UK in 2016, the insect has travelled to our shores from northern Europe, where there are now over half a million nests annually in France alone.

By 2022, just 16 Asian Hornet nests had been discovered in this country. But in 2023, this increased dramatically to 72 nests in 56 different locations, including parts of Hampshire.

The public are being urged to stay vigilant, and encouraged to report any suspected sightings on the Asian Hornet Watch app.

Fleet & District Beekeepers Association



Ways We Can Help Our Bentley Hedgehogs!

In Bentley, we're very lucky to have a population of hedgehogs. Nationally, hedgehogs are struggling, especially in rural areas where changes to the landscape, such as the loss of field margins and hedgerows, are attributed to their decline.

In the countryside, villages are the hedgehog's preferred location. Therefore, if we want to protect our spiky friends, all of us need to do what we can to create a hedgehog-friendly environment.

Bentley Wildlife Group has collated some practical tips on how each of us can contribute to hedgehog conservation efforts. Why not try some of these for yourself?

1. Hedgehog Highways

Hedgehogs cover around a mile every night hunting for food. Our gardens are ideal hunting grounds, but fences and walls often block their path. Creating "hedgehog highways" involves strategically placing small gaps or holes for their passage. By removing bricks, cutting holes or digging shallow channels, we allow hedgehogs to move freely between gardens. Collaborate with neighbours to establish access points and choose hedgehog-friendly fencing.

2. Avoid Slug Pellets

Hedgehogs are natural pest controllers, feeding on slugs and snails. Using slug pellets can harm hedgehogs directly and indirectly by depleting their food source and potentially causing long-term health issues. Embrace wildlife-friendly

gardening to create a thriving ecosystem, and let hedgehogs naturally control slug populations.

3. Provide Hedgehog-Friendly Food

Supplement hedgehog diets with wet cat or dog food or specialised hedgehog food, especially during cold or dry spells when insects are scarce. Maintain a fresh water source for hydration, particularly in warmer months.

4. Create Habitat and Shelter

Log piles, compost heaps and overgrown areas attract insects, becoming vital hedgehog food sources as well as nesting and hibernation sites. Install hedgehog houses in quiet, shady spots for additional shelter, but avoid disturbing them, especially during hibernation.

5. Drive with Caution

Reduce hedgehog road casualties by driving cautiously, especially from dusk to dawn when hedgehogs are active. Slowing down and staying alert can save lives and contribute to the overall wellbeing of our local hedgehog population.

Share what you're doing to help hedgehogs in the local area by joining the Bentley Wildlife Group's Facebook group. Join here:
www.facebook.com/groups/BentleyWildlife

Bentley CE Primary

As the Headteacher of Bentley CE Primary, I am honoured to have the opportunity to connect with you through the pages of our parish magazine and it is a privilege to share with you some of the exciting happenings both within and outside our school building – it has been a busy year so far!

Firstly, as many of you will be aware, I had a delayed start to my headship due to a cancer diagnosis last June. However, I am delighted to share that I have now officially started. The welcome I have received from the whole community has been amazing and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know both the staff and families here at Bentley.

The spring term ended on a high note with a beautiful service led by our talented Year 3 and 4 students; they shared the story of Easter with such passion and enthusiasm. The whole school singing together in St Mary's church was truly beautiful. It was also wonderful to see parents welcomed into the school to witness first hand what the children had been working on and to learn about how Easter is celebrated around the world. Thank you to Mrs Scott Bromley for organising the event.

I must also take a moment to acknowledge the hard work of our PTFA. Events like 'Break the Rules Day', film nights and cake sales have been a huge success, bringing joy and excitement to our school community. We are all really looking forward to BFEST, our super music festival, on June 22nd. Please do come along and join in the fun. More details are available on our website.

Our students have had the privilege of visiting various places to enhance their learning experiences over the last term. These outings have truly brought their studies to life and allowed them to explore the world beyond the classroom walls. Year 1 and 2 enjoyed singing with lots of other

schools at the Giant Sing event with Barnaby Bear at the Anvil in Basingstoke; Year 2 learned all about Antarctica during their visit to the Gilbert White Field Studies Centre; Year 3 loved their swimming lessons at Alton Sports' Centre and Year 3 and Year 4 are really looking forward to their residential visit to the Gordon Brown Centre later this term.

I am also proud to share that our Eco Committee, in collaboration with other local schools, participated in 'Keep Britain Tidy, The Great Big School Clean'. Our students worked together to help tidy up Bentley recreation ground, and it was noted that a significant amount of the rubbish collected was plastic. This ties in with our school-wide focus on the Big Plastic Count, where we aim to reduce the use of plastic across our school and wider community.

If you are interested in learning more about our school, do arrange a visit to come and see us in action. We currently have a few school spaces available in most of our year groups. If you know of anyone who is moving to the area or looking for a school placement, please encourage them to come and visit us. We always love to welcome new members into our Bentley family.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of our students and create a nurturing environment for learning and growth.

Warm regards,

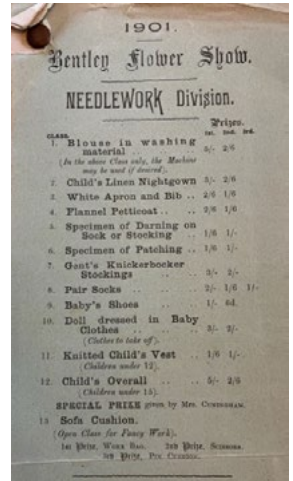
Vicky Hallett Headteacher

SATURDAY 20 JULY 2024

Bentley Flower Show



Take part in this great village tradition that's been held for over one hundred years. In 1901, you could have displayed the Gent's Knickerbocker Stockings that you'd made. We won't have those on display this year but we will have categories for flowers, vegetables, home-made produce and baking as well as lots of children's classes. Look out for the schedule which will be delivered to all households in Bentley in June or visit the website bentleyfete.co.uk. Entries are free and you don't need to be an expert to participate. We welcome exhibits from all ages and skill levels.



Saturday Café



Bentley Memorial Hall

Saturdays 10.30am – 12.30pm

Coffee, tea and cakes



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Special Saturday 11 May

Garden Club Plant Sale and Saturday Café joint event



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WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/BENTLEY

03

March 2024

WEATHER STATISTICS



Temperature



Daytime maximum

18.4°C (20th) to 8.5°C (2nd)

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



Nighttime minimum

- 4.1°C (3rd) to 10.4°C (19th)

7 nights below 0°C

Rainfall



Total for month

3.98 inches (101.0 mm) over 21 days



Wettest days

0.86 inches (21.8 mm) (8th)

Wind



Dominant wind direction

South South West



Maximum gust

33 mph (28th)

Parish Weatherman



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The Wickham Institute 100+ Club

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

April 2024

1st prize Alan Shelley

2nd prize Chris Moore

3rd prize Mike Christmas

Details of the May 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



Bentley Station Meadow nature reserve

This 12 acre site is owned by Butterfly Conservation and is located just across from Bentley Station. It's along a woodland edge with wet meadows and blackthorn scrub, ideal for the Brown Hairstreak butterfly. There is a dedicated team of volunteers that help manage the reserve and have done so for many years. The past few years have seen the meadows become swamped by bramble and blackthorn making it a struggle for wildflowers to survive. The site was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its botanical diversity. The volunteers have cleared huge areas of bramble this winter so we're looking forward to seeing how it responds. We'll be meeting up over the summer months on 12th June, 10th July and 7th August. Please do come and join us or do get in touch if you'd like to know more about the site. I'd also be interested to hear about any work you're doing in the area. Contact Fiona on fscully@butterfly-conservation.org



Sudoku Games

Sudoku game EASY

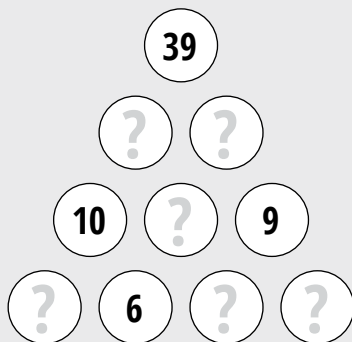
	8							7
				2		6	5	
6		1		8			3	
		2	6	7		3		
			5		9			
		9		1	2	4		
	1			9		5		3
	9	5		4				
4								7

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

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

Sudoku game HARD

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



Binsted Fete



13TH JULY 2024

HELP US HELP YOU

Volunteers Needed!

Last year, with your help and support, The Binsted Fete was able to put on a fantastic community event AND donate over £3,000 to good local causes.

Can you get more involved this year?

email the team:

info@binstedfete.co.uk

Church Registers

Bentley

Wednesday 13th March Funeral of Simon Bendy
Friday 22nd March Funeral and burial of Edna Davison

Binsted

Monday 18th March Interment of ashes of John Droy
Tuesday 26th March Funeral and burial of Katie McFarlane

Froyle

Friday 1st March Interment of ashes of Paul Birch
Wednesday 20th March Memorial service of Nigel Mills

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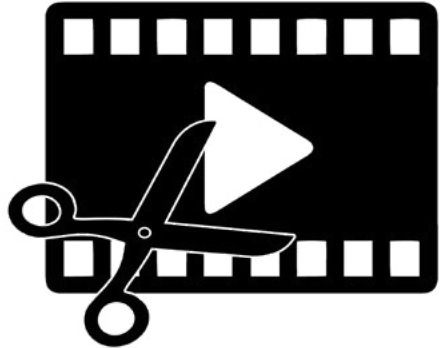
WHY CHOOSE THE PUP SPA?

'ZOE AT THE PUP SPA IS AMAZING! I'VE USED HER FOR MY LABRADOR AND MY OLDER LEONBERGER. THE LEONBERGER BEAR WAS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A GOOD DI-SHED AND SHE DID THE MOST AMAZING JOB WITH TIME. HER KNOWLEDGE AND ADAPTABILITY FROM BREED TO BREED IS SO REASSURING AND SHE JUST CREATES SUCH A WARM FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT FOR DOGS AND OWNERS.'

'ZOE WAS SO INFORMATIVE BEFORE I TOOK MY 18 WEEK OLD PUPPY. IT WAS SO GREAT TO GET REAL ADVICE ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR PUPPIES AND SHE WAS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE BREED AND TYPE OF HAIR SHE'D BE DEALING WITH. THE PUPPY INTRO SESSIONS ARE A GREAT IDEA TO ALLOW A PUPPY TO GET USED TO SOME GOOD OLD PAMPERING.'

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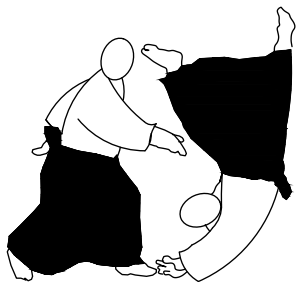


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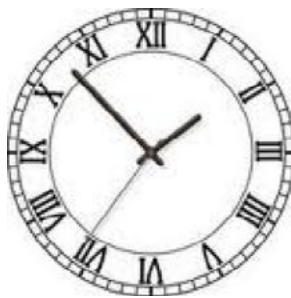
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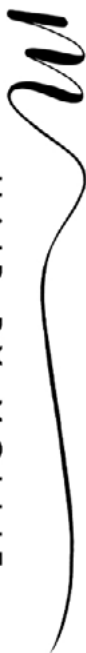
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Badminton Club: Martin Fox 07710 035913
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Garden Club Chairman

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
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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

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The Wickham Institute

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Binsted School

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19th May **9:30am** Froyle Morning Worship
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4pm Froyle Messy Church 



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