

BACS

Newsletter July 2005 No. 48

Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society

Dates for your Diary:

Autumn Walk – Sunday 18th September 2005
Film Evening – Saturday 12th November 2005 at 7.30pm
AGM – 8th February 2006

Autumn Walk:

This year's Autumn walk will take place on Sunday 18th September. The walk will take in the 7 follies designed and constructed by Mad Jack Fuller MP, just south of Burwash, including his mausoleum and the observatory. It is hoped the walk will give everyone superb views over the Sussex Weald and will be a very interesting afternoon for all of the family.

Film Evening:

Everyone is invited to attend a film evening in the Benenden Village Hall on Saturday 12th November. Barry Littlechild will be presenting a collection of short films, including "Adventures in the Hopfields", filmed locally and starring Jane Asher. The event will begin at 7.30pm and is expected to last about three hours. Tickets are £5, which will include refreshments at the interval. Proceeds will be shared between the Benenden Primary School PTA and Hawkhurst Hospital League of friends, together with a charity of Barry Littlechild's choice. For tickets, or for more information, please contact Alan Milne on 241109.

Book Offer:

The BACS committee has been made aware of the publication of a new local book, by Anthony Poole. The book focuses on Cranbrook, and is titled "A market town and its surrounding villages". A leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter, which contains further information as well as details of how to buy the book at a discounted price.

Planning Matters:

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Natalie Blakemore is now responsible for monitoring all planning applications. A summary of planning applications can be found on the Parish noticeboard in the village centre, and details can be seen at the Borough Council Offices in Cranbrook.

If you have any concerns about a planning application near you, please contact a committee member who will be able to raise your concerns at the next committee meeting.

Amenity Refuse Collection:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council organises the schedule for amenity refuse vehicle, which visits the Parish for three hours every fortnight, on a Saturday morning. For your information, the dates and venues of this service for the next three months are printed below. The vehicle is accessible from 8am until 11am, and this is the same every fortnight.

July	August	September
Sat 2 nd – Iden Green Crossroads Sat 16 th – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 30 th – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 13 th – Benenden Village Hall Sat 27 th – Iden Green Crossroads	Sat 10 th – Cherryfields, Benenden Sat 24 th – Iden Green Crossroads

Subscriptions:

Please contact David Grief if you have not yet paid your 2005 subscription, and you will be sent a renewal form. Alternatively, you can print an application form on the BACS website, which can be found at www.benendenvillage.org.uk. You can also discover the origins and objectives of the society on this site, as well as read about upcoming BACS events.

We are currently trying to increase our membership. If you know of anyone who may like to join BACS, please contact David Grief, who will ensure a form is sent. Perhaps you can encourage friends and neighbours to join. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, which contains details of events being organised by BACS, and items of local interest from around the parish.

Your new committee:

Full contact details for all your committee members are printed below. Following Peter Blockley's resignation, Gill Snow has been co-opted onto the committee and Natalie Blakemore takes over the responsibility of monitoring planning applications. Gill Snow now takes the lead on all publicity issues, and William Davies will now focus on the newsletter.

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Gill Snow - Publicity

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William Davies - Newsletter

Weald House, Iden Green, TN17 4HH
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The Benenden Home Guard, 1940:

This is the fifth of the occasional Home Guard extracts. They are from a record made by Collingwood Ingram (of The Grange, now Collingwood Grange) of the talks he gave to the men when he was the local commander of the Home Guard. The first meeting was on 23rd May 1940. This are not the full record and where sections have been omitted this is indicated by

Once again, we are extremely grateful to Ernie Pollard for researching the topic and compiling this article.

Sunday 11th July 1940

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As some of you know, this morning we had an exercise in what might be termed "guerrilla" tactics against the Sandhurst unit of the L.D.V. I was asked to supply a small number of pseudo parachutists. These seven men were presumed to have been landed at the AA Box at the top of Newenden Hill at 11 a.m. They were told to find their way, keeping within the bounds of Sandhurst parish, to Field Green – that is to say, to the junction of Sponden Lane with the Rye – Hawkhurst Road. The Sandhurst contingent were fully aware of these plans & [the] Commanding Officer had strung a line of men placed in concealed positions right across the parish. He felt pretty confident that none of our fellows would get through without being captured. He was wrong – all seven safely reached their objective – which was a highly creditable performance. The men concerned were Leany, Barham C., Wickham, Davis W., Meades G.E., Meades W.G. Masters T.

25th July 1940

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On the General Alarm being sounded all men will go at once with arms and ammunition to the Battle Posts to which they have been detailed. All others must report immediately to St Georges Club. The seven Battle Posts selected, more or less form a perimeter round the village of Benenden.

			Sheet 126
No 1	Goddards Green	255 530	P. Leney
No 2	Colebarn	275 524	Clegg
No 3	Pullington	255 510	Barham
No 4	Dingleden	254 496	Blandford
No 5	Iden Green	239 498	G. Harden
No 6	Scullsgate	230 511	Syer
No 7	Mounts	234 521	Rennnie

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Molotoff Bottle throwing. I am offering this old silver-plated fruit basket as a prize to the most expert bomber in the company. This competition will be carried out in heats. The different "heats" will be composed of (A) the men detailed to the different Battle Posts (B) The Reserve Party which will be divided into two sections. The 3 best scores in each heat will qualify for the final round.

Cases have occurred recently of military personnel being detained after they have shown their AB64. Your attention is drawn to the fact that AB64 must be regarded as an equivalent to an Identity Card so far as troops are concerned.

Next Sunday there is going to be a special service at the Church for the benefit of the Benenden Company of the Home Guard. The vicar has arranged that the service will be a very short one and hopes that as many as

possible will attend. The time will be 7 P.M. Attendance will of course be entirely voluntary but I trust most of you will attend. The service is not expected to last more than ½ an hour or 20 min.

Now here is a piece of news that should gladden your hearts. The War Office has decided to give us – I say “us”, but as a matter of fact the Officers do not come in to this – a subsistence allowance for periods of continuous duty. The rates, as at present fixed, are as follows

For periods between 10 & 24 hours	3/-
For periods between 5 & 10 hours	1/6

As this concession is retrospective & starts from July 17th; men who have been on guard duty since that date are entitled to 1/6 for each night they have been out. You will, I am sure, agree that as we have all willingly and freely offered our services to the country without any thought of emolument, this concession is an extremely generous one – especially, as you know, England needs every penny she can beg or borrow to carry on a war which is proving to be by far the most costly in the history of mankind. Would it not, therefore, be a fine gesture on our part if we agreed to loan any Subsistence Allowance we may get to the country in the form of National Savings? In many ways Benenden has already shown itself to be among the most – if not quite the most – patriotic village in the county of Kent. Here is a golden opportunity for us to set a seal on our reputation for patriotism – to be an example to all units of the Home Guard – not only in Kent – but the whole of Great Britain. If you agree with my suggestion, I will undertake to have a letter sent to the Press so that our patriotism will be made known & I hope, followed by others. And, incidentally, think how nice it will be to draw a fat lump sum when we finally doff our khaki & put down our rifles once and for all. It would give an added zest to our thoughts of peace that will follow victory.