

# BACS

*Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society*

## Newsletter June 2011 No. 68

### Dates for your Diary:

St George's Church Tour – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 – 7.30pm

### Other events planned this Autumn:

- Autumn Walk in the Bodiam area.
- A Guided tour of Benenden School.

### St George's Church Tour & bell-ringing opportunity

The BACS committee has organised a tour of St George's Church on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, beginning at 7.30pm. During the evening, the Revd Dr Rosemary Van Wengen will be available to lead a tour around our local parish church and answer any questions members may have.

St George's church is one of the few anywhere in the country with 13 bells in the belfry. For those who would like a closer look, there will also be an opportunity to climb into the belfry with Roddy Lebon, who campaigned for the 13<sup>th</sup> bell to be installed a few years ago. There will also be the opportunity to have a go at bell-ringing, for anyone who wishes to. If you enjoy it, there may even be the opportunity to join the local bell-ringing group.

It is hoped members will also be able to climb even higher to the roof of the tower, to see the magnificent views of the village and surrounding countryside, weather permitting. The tour will also include an opportunity to climb into some other stairwells, which you may not have known existed.

Please do tell friends and relatives about this fantastic event, which is open to not only members, but also to anyone who is considering joining BACS. Light refreshments will be available throughout the evening. There is no charge for this event, but donations to St George's Church are always appreciated. If you would like to attend, please contact Alan Milne on 240819 or email [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk).

### New updated Newsletter:

BACS is planning to upgrade this newsletter, the format of which has not been altered since May 2003. The updated newsletter will be more 'email friendly' as it will be in colour and may occasionally contain links to items of interest on the internet.

The committee has therefore decided that from now onwards all newsletters will be sent via email. Members will only receive a paper copy in the post if you have specifically requested this, or if you have not been able to provide us with an email address.

Please do encourage friends, relatives and neighbours to join BACS, and remind them of the walks and other fantastic events which we regularly organise. More events are already being planned for 2012, including events to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee.

### **Benenden Primary School:**

The BACS committee would like to draw your attention to an important exhibition being held later this month, about the plans for the proposed new Primary School in Benenden.

The event is being organised by the governors of the Primary School and Kent County Council. It should therefore provide an excellent opportunity for residents to see the details of the plans and we would encourage all members to attend on one of the dates below, especially if you have any questions or concerns.

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June in the Village Hall, from 3.30pm until 8pm. The architects will also be present on this first day of the exhibition.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June in St George's Church, from 9am until 8pm.
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June in St George's Church, from 11am until 5pm.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June in St George's Church, from 12noon until 4pm.

### **AGM report:**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Benenden Amenity and Countryside Society took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March in the Benenden Village Hall. The meeting began with Alan Milne presenting his chairman's report, after which Natalie Blakemore presented the treasurer's report. Alan Milne was then re-elected as chairman, Angela Lloyd-Jones was re-elected as secretary and Natalie Blakemore was re-elected as treasurer. The remaining committee members were then also re-elected to serve on the committee for another year. The chairman's report in full follows at the end of this newsletter.

Members were then treated to a fascinating film titled "A journey through the Weald of Kent", produced by the Weald of Kent Protection Society and Cranbrook School. The film illustrated the many benefits of living the Weald of Kent, which reminded us of how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of England. It also presented a very honest account of the challenges our local area will face if it is to preserve its special character as we progress further into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **Electronic BACS:**

As you may know, BACS has its own area on the Benenden village website, which can be found at [www.benendenvillage.org.uk](http://www.benendenvillage.org.uk). On this site, you can discover the origins and objectives of the society, you can read about upcoming events and you can print a membership form, which can be used to either join the society or renew your membership. It is also possible to download back issues of the newsletter, from issue 37 onwards.

### **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 are printed below. The vehicle is accessible from 8am until 11am, and this is the same every fortnight.

| <b>June</b>  | <b>July</b>  | <b>August</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> – Benenden Village Hall<br>Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads | Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> – Cherryfields, Benenden<br>Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads | Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> – Benenden Village Hall<br>Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> – Iden Green Crossroads |

**Your committee:****Alan Milne – Chairman**

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**BACS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 23rd AGM – 16 MARCH 2011**

This is our 23rd AGM and it is very sad to note that Penny Tweedie, who presented a superb selection of her photos at last year's AGM, died tragically in January. We shall miss her.

However, I am pleased to report that BACS is still in fine form. I'd like to welcome everyone this evening and especially guests, newcomers and new members. We've had many membership enquiries over the last fortnight, which might be linked to the film show this evening.

Charmian Hislop, who is the Secretary of the Weald of Kent Protection Society (a Society with similar aims to ours), will be introducing a 2-part film evening which will show 2 short films on the Weald and how it has changed in 50 years. We do hope that you enjoy it and Charmian will be selling copies of the DVD later in the evening which will, as usual, finish with refreshments. Proceeds go to the WKPS.

As you know, Philip Message, one of our Vice-Presidents, has retired and Baldwins has closed after 96 years (though not all of them with Philip!): we wish Philip and Miriam a happy retirement, and also Philip well after his recent operations.

Even though we have had to raise subscriptions after many years of stability, it does help us if members would choose to receive the BACS Newsletters and other communications by email. There is a sheet on the table where you can add in your email address, if you have not already opted for email. Or you can just email me at [alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk](mailto:alanmilne@chartsec.co.uk) if you would like to register. You will also get some Newsletters with colour attachments, which we don't provide if we use the Post.

BACS also has its own area on the Benenden village website, which can be found at [www.benendenvillage.org.uk](http://www.benendenvillage.org.uk) On this site, you can discover more about the village, the origins and objectives of the Society, read about planned events and print a membership form, which can be used to either join the Society or renew your membership. It is also possible to download back issues of the Newsletter, from issue 37 onwards. Some of the Newsletters include articles on local history, which will especially interest those who have recently moved into Benenden or Iden Green.

We continue to organise 2 walks during the year, a dawn chorus and a visit to a local museum or other place of interest. Last year we visited the Morgan Museum in Rolvenden, which is an Aladdin's cave of motorabilia and well worth taking visitors to. The annual bird chorus took place in April and this year is starting off at the more relaxed time of 6 o'clock on 3 April. It will again be led by Stephen

Message and, weather permitting, will finish with a garden breakfast. As numbers are very limited, only fully paid-up members who have pre-booked can be accommodated. A booking form is on the table: please write your name and telephone number clearly. Of course, no dogs are allowed for this event. We then offer breakfast to those coming along, but to avoid disappointment I must ask you to have booked first and had this confirmed.

Philip Message organised 2 walks for us during the year, including a 15-mile trek which almost replicated the Millennium Walk in reverse. Benenden Hospital were wonderful in laying on such a good lunch for us, that some could not continue for the second-half. Unfortunately, the Autumn Walk had to be abandoned as incessant rain had completely swamped the terrain. We shall be holding it now on Sunday, 15 May and details are in the last Newsletter.

Dick Hill has organised an evening for BACS members at St George's Church on Tuesday, 7 June. There will be the opportunity of climbing the tower and learning about the bells from Rod Lebon and, possibly, trying your hand at campanology. Rev. Dr. Rosemary van Wengen has kindly offered to take us on a tour of the church and explain its history, architecture and odd corners.

We'd like to thank Charlie Evans for auditing our books for 2010 and for taking over from Julia Reynolds, and to Natalie Blakemore for looking after them. My thanks also go to all of the Committee for their interest and input throughout the year, as well as to Philip Message for his continued support, especially in the organisation of our walks and to Stephen Message for organising the dawn chorus.

I'd also like to thank all of our members for their interest in BACS and give a special thanks to all of the Committee for all their support, hard work and enthusiasm. We always welcome new faces on the Committee. If you would like to join us please let me or another Committee member know this evening, or drop me a line.

Thank you for coming along this evening.