

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

Some members may be aware of the changes which have been proposed to the Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries, across England.

As a rural parish with no close connections to any large town, Benenden has been part of several different constituencies over the years. Before we became part of Maidstone and the Weald, we have been included in both Tunbridge Wells and Ashford constituencies.

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed to move us again into a brand new constituency, simply called 'Weald'. This new constituency is geographically very large and for the first time includes areas in both Kent and East Sussex. Cranbrook and Hawkhurst will move with us but the main towns in the new constituency will be Paddock Wood, Battle and Crowborough.

A period of public consultation is now open and will continue until 5th December. More information, including maps of the proposed new constituency can be found on the Boundary Commission website, where you can also have your say. Just Google 'boundary review' or click on the link below.

Weblink - Find more information on the boundary changes at:
<http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Walk:

Sunday 23rd October,
at 2.30pm

2012 AGM:

Wednesday 14th March
2012.

EVENT CANCELLED

Unfortunately the tour of Benenden School, which we had planned for this Autumn, has been cancelled.

It is hoped a new date will be arranged in 2012, and any details on this will of course feature in a future newsletter.

SEPTIC TANKS: A CHANGE IN THE LAW

The Government is currently conducting a review about whether a change in the law is needed, with regards to the registration of septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants.

This is part of the new European Union Water Framework Directive, and may affect you if your property is not on mains drainage.

There is more information on the Environment Agency website, or click on the link below.

Weblink - Find more information about septic tanks at:
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/118753.aspx>

BACS ONLINE

BACS has its own area on the village website. Just go to www.benendenvillage.org.uk and find the link on the left hand side.

On this site, you can discover the origins and objectives of the society, read about upcoming 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.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Committee continues to look at planning applications for the benefit of all in Benenden. Roger Lake is responsible for monitoring all planning applications, which are then discussed at BACS committee meetings.

A summary of planning applications can be found on the Parish noticeboards and details can be seen online at www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk. Alternatively, planning applications may be viewed at the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells or at the Weald Information Centre in Cranbrook. Please contact the Borough Council on 01892 526121 or info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk for further information.

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.

CIVIC AMENITY REFUSE VEHICLE

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council organises the civic amenity refuse vehicle, which visits the Parish between 8am and 11am every other Saturday.

The fortnightly visits alternate between Iden Green and Benenden, and provide an opportunity for you to dispose of bulky rubbish.

The next visit will be on Saturday 15th October, from 8am, on the Iden Green crossroads.

For more information, including a full schedule, just click on the link below. You can also find a schedule displayed on both Parish noticeboards.

AUTUMN WALK

This year's Autumn walk is on Sunday 23rd October and will be a circular walk around Bodiam Castle and the beautiful countryside which surrounds it. The walk will be the usual length of about 5 miles and dogs on leads are welcome.

We will meet in the Bodiam Castle car park at 2.30pm. Maps and routes will be distributed in the car park, where toilets are also available. As usual, tea will be provided in the car park at the end of the walk.

The car park is £2 per vehicle, but free to National Trust members who show their membership card.

The walk is open to both members and to anyone who may like to join BACS, so please do encourage friends and relatives to join us on this lovely walk. Please contact Alan Milne for further information.



NOTICE OF AGM

The 2012 AGM will be in the Benenden Village Hall on Wednesday 14th March. Full details, including an agenda, will be included in a future newsletter.

Following the formal part of the meeting, Barry Littlechild will be entertaining us with a nostalgic film titled 'Yesterday's Britain... 1950'. The film runs for about an hour and looks at life in the 1950's. It will include lots of Royal footage, which should be ideal for the Queen's Jubilee year.

Some members may remember Barry Littlechild from the 'Adventures in the Hopfields' film evening organised by BACS in 2005. I know this event will prove to be just as enjoyable, after which members will be invited to stay for drinks and snacks.

Weblink - Find more information on the Civic Amenity Refuse Vehicle at: <http://www2.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1999>

PATCHWORK QUILT CHARITY RAFFLE

Over the last 6 months, members of the Benenden Patchwork and Quilting group have hand-sewn a large patchwork quilt, as a group project.

Titled "Japanese Autumn", the quilt will be raffled on 7th May 2012, in aid of both Hospice in the Weald and the St George's Church.



Tickets are £1 each and available now from members of the group. Please contact Mellony Nicol on mjn@benenden.kent.sch.uk for further information.

THE NEW-LOOK BACS NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of the new-look BACS newsletter and any comments you may have about the layout or content would be very welcome.

The newsletter has been designed to be distributed by email and viewed whilst your computer is online. However, it can still be easily printed and viewed in the traditional way.

By distributing the newsletter by email, we are able to save money and paper. We can also now easily include colour and photographs.

You may also have noticed some news items have yellow boxes beneath them, titled 'weblink'. The yellow boxes contain links to other specific websites, and which relate to the item in the newsletter. If you click them whilst online, your computer will automatically open the relevant website.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact William Davies or any other committee member.

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