

**SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022**

Beckley Parish Council (PC) is sponsoring this newsletter, with further newsletters in August and December.

We hope you will find the information interesting and informative on what is happening in your village and the many events/clubs and activities on offer to you.

To start with, we will give you information on what has been happening and is in the pipeline in and around our village, starting with your PC's news.

**PRECEPT/COUNCIL TAX INCREASE:** Beckley PC's annual budget has increased this year from £23K 2021/22 to £25K 2022/23, a rise of £2K (8.7% which sounds a lot is actually + £2.20 per year or 18p per month (Band D) per household.

The council is responsible for the upkeep of:

* the children's playground
* the tennis courts
* the Jubilee field, Frog field and field by school
* the land at Buddens Green
* the trees in public spaces
* mowing of all verges
* dog bins
* litter bins
* telephone boxes
* finger signposts
* bus stops

which costs £6,300 a year, an increase of approximately £100 on the previous year. It also employs a clerk on a part time basis and, in accordance with local government legislation, pays to have its accounts and budgets audited, maintains a risk register, pays for annual safety inspections of the play equipment, public liability insurance, subscriptions to PC organisations (NALC, ESALC, RALC etc) pays for a website, and the general administration costs of monthly public meetings. It also donates to local organisations and charities that directly benefit residents. All these costs have increased from £16,800 to £18,700. This small increase will allow us to continue to be able to support local organisations. The full set of budget numbers and actual spend can be found on the Council's website.

**RESIDENTS' ANNUAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, 21 MAY 2022**

**2.00pm in THE VILLAGE HALL**



Everyone is welcome to come along and exchange and share your views. This is **your** meeting, not a PC meeting. Whilst these meetings should be arranged by yourselves, over the years the work has been left to the PC. We have asked clubs etc for contributions and invited anybody who has something to say, discuss or exhibit to let the Parish Clerk know and she will liaise with you –

clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk, or if you know a councillor, please don't hesitate to speak with them. Please come along and meet with other residents and be introduced to those you may not already know. Keeping tight-knit relationships in a small rural village, such as Beckley, is very important for everyone, as you will probably be aware following the storms in February, and there are many more instances where we all need help or a friend.

This year the meeting will begin with some **FREE FIRST AID TRAINING** from the Rother Responders on CPR & how to use a defibrillator – vital skills as we have discovered lately in our village.

***Please help to make your meeting a success by coming along, even if only to say 'hello' and enjoy some light refreshments.***

**THE MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)** on the Jubilee Field is for everyone to enjoy. The court can be booked to ensure you have preferential use –

[www.beckleymuga.setmore.com](http://www.beckleymuga.setmore.com)

**BECKLEY HELPS UKRAINE:** What can our community do? As Northiam has several collection sites for aid it was felt that Beckley could offer something else for refugees. Could you spare your time or offer a free service such as baby sitting, driving, free yoga, therapy, music, art lessons? Do you have relevant language skills? Can you support the hosts of refugees? Do you have any ideas how we can help our newcomers? If you feel this is something you would like to help with, please register your interest with

Dana@beckleycanhelp@gmail.com



**QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Plans for the bank holiday weekend are as follows- subject to weather. Please keep up to date on Facebook and the Parish Council website:-

**THURSDAY 2nd June** – **10am** special family church service followed by a commemorative tree planting ceremony with the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex - free tree for every child to plant for the Queen.

**Afternoon -** Cinema Event-held in the village hall – a film for families

**Evening –** Cinema Event for adults with some old village footage!

**FRIDAY 3rd June** – Come and see the Frog Field now the work on habitat creation is completed. Meet at the entrance to Frog Field at **2.30pm**. **7.30pm** - sees HENRY VIII himself coming to the village hall to share a humorous insight into his lives and loves. Children welcome.

**SATURDAY 4th June** – The village Horticultural Flower and Craft Show is open to everyone, even non-members, and this year has Jubilee themed classes in the village hall. Exhibits to be dropped by **11am** with show open from **2pm**. There is even a cookery class solely for men!

www.[beckleyhorticulturalsociety](https://beckleyhorticulturalsociety.org/).org.

**SUNDAY 5th June** – Picnic in the Glebe Field with Rose & Crown bar, ice creams and musical entertainment – **noon onwards**. Bring your blankets and a picnic and come and chill out with friends.

**CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN!** Some of **t**he Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be centred around our village church and we would like to spruce the grounds up ready for this. If you are able to help, **please come along at 10am on Saturday 30th April and/or bank holiday Monday 2nd May**. Wear old clothes, bring some gloves and any tools such as shears. If anyone has any larger tools such as a strimmer they could bring, we would be most grateful. Refreshments provided.

**BECKLEY SCHOOL ART TRAIL:** look out for the artwork that will be popping up around the village as part of the jubilee celebrations!

The **VILLAGE LUNCH** restarted on April 14th and will be monthly on the second Thursday in the Village Centre.  Cost £7.50.  Bookings with payment no later than the Monday before.  Details and bookings 01797 260720.

**BECKLEY PHONE BOXES**: One box is opposite the Rose & Crown and holds one of the village defibrillators *(the other defibrillator is at village hall).* The phone box near the school is a “Library” for residents to donate and take books, CD's & DVD's. Please leave it tidy and do not stack items on the floor as these items rot when wet, leaving a soggy mess for someone to clean up!

**BECKLEY PRE-SCHOOL** has been running since 1973. **We operate in the Village Hall from 9am – 3pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays** and have places available for children from the age of 2. We are registered to accept the 2-year-old and the 3-year-old Government nursery grants. The preschool is a non-profit making charity whose aim is to provide activities and equipment in a relaxed and happy atmosphere to enable your child to progress in all areas of their development and become independent in preparation for school. A committee of volunteers, parents/carers, manages the preschool and staff, who meet termly to discuss the preschools activities, fundraising events and ensure all our legal requirements are fulfilled. We employ qualified and experienced staff and are responsible for the overall management of the group. Our Contact details are Beckley Village Centre, Main Street, Beckley, TN31 6RL.

info@beckleypreschool.co.uk [www.beckleypreschool.co.uk](http://www.beckleypreschool.co.uk)

**GUIDES & BROWNIES:** We are pleased to inform you all that 1st Beckley Brownies and Guides returned to face-to-face meetings last November 2021, following the COVID restrictions. We look forward to seeing you all out and about in the village and being involved in village activities, once again. We have spaces available for new members and should you be interested in your daughter joining us for fun, friendship and skill building, please register your interest via: www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/find-your-nearest-unit/ and selecting 1st Beckley as your preferred unit. Then we will contact you with further information. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you again. Jay, Willow, Snowy Owl & Mo.

**BECKLEY TREFOIL GUILD :**  For those who haven’t heard of Trefoil Guild, Trefoil is open to anyone from the age of 18 who has made the Guide or Scout promise (or not) wishing to subscribe to the aims and principles of the organisation. We support our Brownies and Guides.

Our meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2.00 p.m. normally in the small hall. We also meet up for a Garden Party in one of our members' beautiful gardens, have a BBQ in a member's field, have outings within our area and visit other Guilds. Do please come along and join us for a cup of tea and a fun afternoon. For further information please call Jane Pearson 01797 260537 - (Secretary).

**FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH BECKLEY:** The Friends Charity was founded in 1989 from an idea by Rev Christopher Hopkins. The founder Chairman was Dennis Ward and nearly a hundred villagers attended the foundation meeting. Over the years £120K+ has been raised for re-shingling the spire, reroofing, rewiring and relighting and redecorating the interior. Art exhibitions, concerts and coffee mornings initially raised the money, and much was done by January 1st 2000. Since then, our annual Church Fetes continue to be the main fund-raising event and is very popular both in the village and the surrounding area.

New Members are most welcome to join us and help to preserve our oldest building for all of us and for future Beckley villagers. Contact Mike Hancock on 01797 260525.

**BECKLEY PARK CRICKET CLUB:** was formed in 1997 primarily to bring back Sunday cricket to the community. We are a very friendly and sociable club, playing around 20 fixtures a year, mostly against local villages and normally more than half of the matches are at home. We have some players who are still at senior school and some who are retired.

We have a picturesque ground in Rectory Lane just 200 yards off Main Street, there is no lovelier place to watch a game of cricket on a Sunday afternoon. During the summer we have a midweek practice 'net'.

Our HQ is the Rose and Crown, where our fixture list is posted and enquiries can be made either there or by contacting club Chairman Russell Edwards (07770 650509) or club Captain Peter Smulders (01797 260784). We would love you to join us as a player or spectator.

**THE RYE & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST** has an active membership drawn from Rye and the surrounding areas of Beckley, Brede and Northiam and extends to Tenterden, Hawkhurst, New Romney, Hastings and Bexhill. We are a friendly social group with membership open to all - you don't have to be a member of the National Trust! Our objectives are to provide interesting and enjoyable activities and events for our members whilst raising funds for the support of the National Trust. Our normal programme of activities includes monthly talks during winter and spring, usually on a Thursday afternoon at Brede Village Hall and in the summer, we arrange outings to places of interest including National Trust properties and other houses and gardens too. We have a monthly Walking Group which meets at 10.00 am at the chosen venue for a five-six miles walk in varying terrain, followed by a long lunch at a suitable inn! We also have social events. If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome! Just email our Membership Secretary, Dee Williams - membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com

**ROSE & CROWN MUSIC:** Since October 2014, monthly informal music sessions (sometimes called ‘open mic’ evenings) are held every **third Monday evening** at The Rose & Crown. Performances include residents from Beckley, Peasmarsh and Northiam, Hastings, Tunbridge Wells and beyond by people, young and not so young, who come along to sing a song, play a tune, recite a poem, tell a joke and even perform magic tricks. This entertainment is free, and a typical evening will have a dozen or more different ‘acts’ performing a wide range of music with audience participation encouraged.

**BECKLEY BOWLS CLUB**

(New members are always welcomed)

**The Bowls Green, Kings Bank Lane, Beckley TN31 6RU.**

Bowls is a sport for all ages to enjoy and to make new friends and learn new skills. If you would like to try a game, we would love to hear from you. Please make arrangements with the Club Captain, Nigel Pearson, on 01797 260537 or email

 beckleybowlsclub@btinternet.com. We can provide all the equipment, but please wear flat soled shoes.

The Bowls Green is situated approx. ½ mile up Kings Bank Lane. It has its own Club house and a separate refreshments room. There is a decked area over-looking the Green which is a sun trap in the Summer! Parking is at the side and in front of the Green. See our website at [www.beckleybowlsclub.com](http://www.beckleybowlsclub.com).

**BECKLEY VILLAGE CENTRE** is the community hub of the village. It is a run as the Beckley Village Hall charity by and for the people of Beckley.

Rooms are available for private parties and meetings. Groups running regular weekly activities are Pilates, Taekwondo, Table Tennis and Yoga. Other activities include Church Coffee Morning, WI, History Society, Horticultural Society, Beckley Players as well as children’s activities.

No building runs itself. If you could help with admin, fund-raising, maintenance or generally keeping the place ready for use please let us know.

Contacts: beckleyvillage@btinternet.com

Phone Mary Howse 01797 260213 for bookings.

Lauren Dobson 01797 260364 for everything else.

**BECKLEY HISTORY SOCIETY** meets 4 times a year with speakers of local and general interest and there are occasional outings. The Parish Chest is our recently started archive for Beckley. At £3 for individuals and £7 for a family, our annual subscription is value for money. Contact: Keith Ford 01797 260226

**THE BECKLEY FUND** is a charitable Trust set up to help local groups generally supporting heritage, the arts and their venues. Donations and grant applications are welcome to support our community. The fund is small at present but as it grows it could help when a quick response is needed. Contact: Mary Howse 01797 260213 mary260213@aol.com

**TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!** At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside. For hundreds of walks, free to download, as well as details of all the walking groups in the county go to

 <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex>.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking! John Harris - [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/) john@walkinginengland.co.uk

**THE SPEEDWATCH TEAM** have held fewer session of late because of the weather.  However, we now have our own Speed gun which allows us to put on a session whenever we feel there is a requirement and have team members available. Previously we shared a gun with several other villages and had to collect and deliver the gun to Rye Police Station (now difficult as it is only open one day a week for a limited period).  Recent sessions have shown that speed through the village is still a real problem, even though there are two schools on Main Street and horses riding through the village are a frequent occurrence.

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB** meets every Thursday morning 9.30 - 11.30a.m in Beckley Village Hall -  £3   - with a break for tea/coffee. All ages and standards and lots of laughter had by all! Please come along, or if want more information ring Carole and Terry Cobby on 01797 252382.

**MEDITATION AND STUDY GROUP** meets every Thursday evening. Currently this is online, but we hope later this year to have it again face to face. We have a period of meditation and a subject matter to discuss.

We also hold Sunday morning meditation meetings, every second Sunday of the month. Both of these have been running now for several years at the farm.

The meditation is an open meditation and not linked to any religious creed.  We discuss texts and quotes from different sources, but always with a universal perspective of Unity.  Dr John Brown – 01797 260763 Woodgate Farm, Church Lane, Beckley.

**"TO BE OR NOT TO BE - THAT IS THE QUESTION".....** and the question is:- Could you be a valued member of **Beckley Players?** We are a small group, desperately seeking new members.  We are also looking for a new Director who could shepherd our group of budding Thespians. If you have the time and enthusiasm for amateur dramatics, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the secretary Tricia Lamplugh: 07974 928665.

**BECKLEY WI** was started in 1918 - and we are still going strong today, despite World War II and COVID.  The WI is more than making cakes, jam and Jerusalem; it's about the coming together of minds, abilities and friendship. Throughout our year we have speakers on varied subjects, cooking demonstrations and fun days out as well as regular craft evenings.  We meet on the second Monday of every month at 7:30pm and would love you to either visit or contact us on:

 Office.beckleywi@gmail.com for more information.

**WHOM DO I CONTACT ?**

**East Sussex County Council -** Roads, Road Markings, Verges, Signs, Drains, Potholes, Fallen Trees, Footpaths.

[www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem)

**ESCC Councillor**

Paul Redstone

Cllr.paul.redstone@eastsussex.gov.uk

**Rother District Council -** Planning, Refuse & Recycling, Fly Tipping & Pollution, Dog & Pest Control.

[www.rother.gov.uk/residents](http://www.rother.gov.uk/residents)

**District Councillors**

Martin Mooney - Cllr.martin.mooney@rother.gov.uk

Tony Ganly – cllr.tony.ganly@rother.gov.uk

**Beckley Village Hall**

Bookings etc - [www.beckleyvillage.info](http://www.beckleyvillage.info)

**Beckley Parish Council**

Email clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk

Website [www.beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

If you would like something included in the next issue of the newsletter, please email the Clerk with details. clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk