



BECKLEY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2022



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOUR VILLAGE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP IN MAKING DECISIONS ON WHAT HAPPENS IN BECKLEY?

District and Parish Council elections are on 4 May 2023 when some, or all, of your councillors may stand down.

Over the past few years Beckley has seen many improvements, thanks to your parish council. To enable your village to keep moving forward, whilst preserving our lovely area, your current **councillors encourage residents, especially young ones, to consider joining and bring along fresh ideas for the village.**

Positions are voluntary and your council meets once a month, except in August. The committee consists of seven councillors and anyone over 18 years of age who lives, works or owns a property in the village can apply. So now is the time to give this some thought. If you are interested and would like more information please contact a Parish Councillor, if you know one, who will be happy to speak with you, or email your Clerk, Valerie Ades, clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

PARISH UPDATE IN BRIEF FROM 2018

2018 saw a complete revamp of the children's play area on the Jubilee Field when the extremely old equipment was replaced. 2020/21 saw a complete revamp of the old tennis court into a multi-use games area (MUGA), which has proved tremendously popular and has an on-line booking system for those wishing to book the court for their own use, otherwise it's free. Goal posts have been installed and a table tennis table. A new hard-surface path was laid from Main Street to the play area and a shorter path laid between the MUGA and the car parking area. An all-weather shelter was erected outside the MUGA for the comfort of those using the courts or for spectators. Most of the above was achieved through successful grant applications to various sources including RDC, to whom we are most grateful. Bark is purchased, collected and spread on the play area at regular intervals, usually by a working party of councillors. A councillor inspects and reports on the play area and MUGA weekly and an annual safety RoSPA check is carried out. New picnic tables and bins have been installed on the field.

Covid response – the PC organised a group of volunteers to help residents in need ie arranging phone numbers for emergencies, collecting prescriptions from Northiam and Rye, shopping, checking on vulnerable residents, taking residents to doctor and hospital appointments and providing help with the food bank in Rye. Residents made face masks for vulnerable villagers. Ross Farm provided food parcels which were distributed by Fi, Dom and Claire. The response to the Covid pandemic and the work put in by your fellow villagers and your councillors was enormous.

A number of cancelled celebrations and arrangements, due to Covid, were those for VE day and the Annual Meeting for Residents in May 2021, but the PC put out newsletters to keep in touch. During Covid, Parish Council meetings continued, carried out remotely by Zoom.

Since Covid things have continued to progress. On the Jubilee Field 200 trees were planted to help with climate change and habitats and a trial meadow is underway.

Telephone boxes and defibrillators. The two telephone boxes in the village belong to us and they look spectacular, thanks to the voluntary maintenance work carried out by Mr Mike Rowe. The one by the school is a library (*please do not leave anything on the floor as it gets soggy*); the one opposite the Rose and Crown houses a defibrillator, one of three owned by the village. A second defibrillator is on the entrance wall at the Village Hall and by kind permission of Ebrofrost, a third defibrillator, purchased by the PC, will be placed on their outside wall in Hobbs Lane.

Following last year's storms, work was carried out at the field adjacent to the school when a tree had to be removed and fencing replaced and a tree in the Frog Field was removed when it fell into adjacent property. Trees and bushes were removed from the lane alongside Buddens Green and a new fence erected.

The Frog Field has had a re-vamp to restore it back to its natural habitat. Hedges have been restored, trees thinned, a new bridge built, habitats recreated and new animal houses. The pond has been cleared and restored to its former glory. New signage is being prepared. Most of these costs are covered by a Lund fund.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee saw four days 2 – 5 June packed with celebrations, which were free to villagers. A walk to see the historic village church and trees, an amusing talk on Henry VIII's life and his loves, Horticultural Flower and Craft Show, open day at the Bowls Club, guided tour of the revamped Frog Field and a picnic on the Glebe Field with a bar and a band. Most costs were covered by a successful grant application to RDC for which we were most grateful.

In addition to monies spent in the areas above, the PC has many other costs to cover. A few include the fingerposts which have been replaced or renovated, bus shelters, noticeboards, signs, hedge work at Buddens Green, groundworks at Buddens Green and the Jubilee Field, extra cuts annually to the verges along Main Street, maintenance of the play area and MUGA, dog bin waste collection, fence replacements and tree maintenance.

HRH Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8 September and the village lowered its flags, a flower area was made in the church where there was a Book of Condolence. On Monday 19 September, Councillor Mrs Langmead read the proclamation honouring the late Queen's dedication to our country and giving support to King Charles III.

Behind the scenes - policies have to be written or reviewed regularly. Currently, a Resilience and Emergency plan is being drawn up and the provision of a 'Warm Hub' in Beckley is being looked into. Accounts and a budget are written, planning applications are discussed and RDC informed of the PC's findings. Housing within the village, reviewed in 2020, is currently being revisited.

Above is a small selection of some areas your PC covers.

The annual precept for 2023/24 for submission to RDC in January, is under discussion and residents are welcome to submit any ideas for consideration before 25 November 2022.

PLEASE ENSURE any overgrown trees or bushes overhanging footpaths or roads, or vegetation growing across footpaths from your property are cut back.

RESIDENTS should report directly to RDC or ESCC if they see blocked drains, potholes, issues with roads, paths, public footpaths etc. See '**Whom Do I Contact**' overleaf.

FARMERS' MARKET
CHANGE OF DATE – NEXT MARKET 4 DECEMBER
Thereafter 4th Sunday monthly.



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.

Unfortunately, dogs have been taken onto the court and fouled and their mess left. If this continues the courts will be locked and those wishing to use them will have to book.

JOIN US FOR A RIGHT ROYAL QUIZ - MAY 6 2023

7pm Village Hall fundraiser/Coronation Celebration. Please help us to raise funds for your village hall.



FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH BECKLEY Annual Church Fete took place on August Bank Holiday in perfect weather and Wealden Brass Band was in great form. The fete was opened in style by Heather Fookes bedecked in a hat of scones! The Grand Raffle proved popular with a top prize of £200 and 33 other prizes, many of which were won by locals. Tricia's fabulous bric-a-brac stall was massive. There were the ever-popular book, Pimms and bacon me crazy stalls, along with many old favourites like splat the rat, beat the goalie and more. The WI provided tea and cakes and the Rose & Crown provided the bar. The fun dog show was hotly contested by over 70 dogs of all shapes and sizes and was nobly judged by Charlie. Grateful thanks go to all those who contributed in some way, especially the cricket club. A grand total of £5,400 was raised.

The church desperately needs funds for renovations. Over £120,000 has been raised to re-shingle the spire, rewire and redecorate and a major reroofing programme is now required. New members are always needed to help raise funds and to preserve our oldest building for all of us and for future Beckley villagers. Join us at Coffee mornings on 1st Tuesday monthly. Contact Mike Hancock on 01797 260525 or 07960 967178.

THE BECKLEY LUNCH held 2nd Thursday monthly.

Cost £7.50 for a 2-course meal. Everyone warmly welcomed. To book call Keith Hedley on 01797 260720 no later than the Monday before the lunch.



THE GROWING NETWORK - Beckley Village Hall – 1st Saturday monthly 11-12.30pm. This is an initiative that enables people to share with others excess food they have grown. **All produce is given freely.** Swap produce and enjoy a chat and a coffee. Any help is welcome on Saturdays to set up tables at 10.30am and clear up 12.30-1pm. Donations welcome to cover hall and beverage costs.



BECKLEY PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday 10th December 10-2pm with Father Christmas. Crafts, gifts, face painting tombola, painting, raffle and refreshments. For a craft stall or raffle tickets contact Beckleypreschoolfundraising@gmail.com. Raffle prizes, good condition books, unwanted

gifts, and Christmas decorations welcomed. Please drop them at the pre-school. info@beckleypreschool.co.uk. **Places available for children 2yrs up to primary school age.**

1st BECKLEY BROWNIES AND GUIDES Spaces available at both units. Brownies age 7 to 9 and Guides age 10 to 14. Interested in your daughter joining us to learn new skills, and make new friends? Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/find-your-nearest-unit/, selecting 1st Beckley as your preferred unit or jaybeckleybrownies@gmail.com.

BECKLEY VILLAGE CENTRE - community hub of the village. Many clubs meet here and rooms are available for private parties and meetings. Please let us know if you can help with admin, fundraising or generally keeping the place ready for use - becklevillage@btinternet.com Call Mary Howse 01797 260213 for bookings or Lauren Dobson 01797 260364 for everything else.

YOUR VILLAGE HALL desperately needs your help. Are you able to buy lottery tickets to support your village hall? Please visit <https://www.rothercommunitylottery.co.uk> - go to 'search' and scroll way down to Beckley Village Hall.

BECKLEY WI Come and join our friendly group 2nd Monday monthly at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. We have speakers and outings Visit or contact Office.beckleywi@gmail.com.

The **SPEEDWATCH GROUP** meets once or twice monthly to remind drivers to slow down and keep to the speed limit when driving through our village. More team members will be warmly welcomed. Please contact mike.rowe@btinternet.com for details.



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 Contact: Mary Howse 01797 260213, mary260213@aol.com

BECKLEY HISTORY SOCIETY meets 4 times a year with speakers of local and general interest and occasional outings. Annual membership £3 for individuals and £7 for a family. Next meeting is Friday 18 November at 7.30pm in the Village Centre with a talk about the early years of the Kent & East Sussex Railway. Contact: Keith Ford 01797 260226.

ROSE & CROWN MUSIC: Free sessions every third Monday evening monthly at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to sing, play a tune, recite a poem, tell a joke and even perform magic tricks. Just turn up and have fun.



BECKLEY BOWLS CLUB The Bowls Green, Kings Bank Lane, Beckley TN31 6RU. Clubhouse and parking. Bowls is a sport for all ages to enjoy and make new friends. New members always welcome. To try a game email Club Captain, Nigel Pearson - 01797 260537 beckleybowlsclub@btinternet.com.

SELF DEFENCE WORKSHOP - Beckley Village Hall. Lessons 7pm - 9pm for adults and accompanied teenage children. For dates and bookings call Malcolm Bates on 07713 429642 (leave message) or shingitaimrb@gmail.com. Students are taught the basics of self-protection and self-defence, focussing on avoidance and break away techniques. Cost £10 per student, £5 for 2nd person in same household.

WHOM DO I CONTACT?

East Sussex County Council - Roads, Verges, Road Markings, Signs, Drains, Potholes, Fallen Trees, Footpaths. www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem

Rother District Council - Planning, Refuse & Recycling, Fly Tipping & Pollution, Dog & Pest Control. www.rother.gov.uk/residents

Beckley Village Hall - www.becklevillage.info

Beckley Parish Council - clerk@beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk If you'd like something included in the next newsletter, please email the Clerk.

Website www.beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk