

# Bepton Parish Council

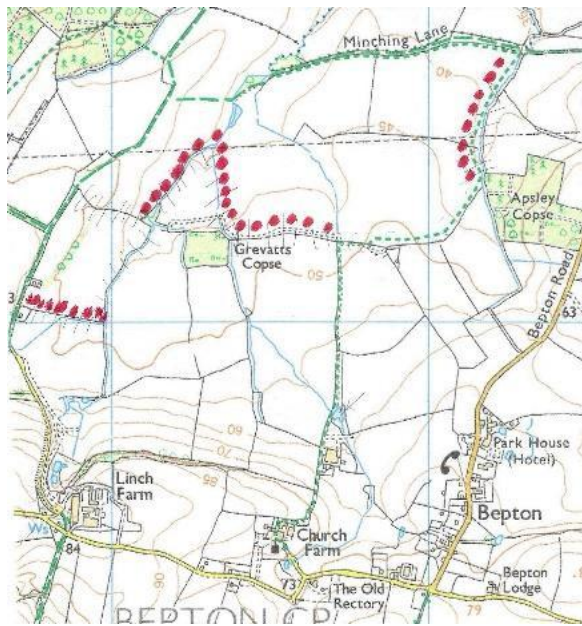
## Winter Newsletter 2023/2024



### Woodpeckers Fun

Linda and Richard Tree were happy to show off the Woodpecker side of their beautifully carved oak tree stump. If you haven't been down Severals Road recently you may not have seen the wonderfully carved tree outside their house 'Woodpeckers'.

### Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)



The scheme, administered by DEFRA, supports farmers, foresters and land managers to make positive changes to maintain and improve land for the environment. The Cowdray Estate have published proposals for their CSS scheme, making the community aware that while this involves significant intervention it is with long term benefits to the environment.

As part of the scheme, The Cowdray Estate will be restoring hedges through layering and coppicing and they will be restoring and creating ponds, following guidelines from Natural England. There will also be 6-metre-wide margins of seed producing wildflowers planted around some fields. Marked in red, the map shows where the work will take place in winter 23/24. Perhaps the most noticeable area of hedging will be along the footpath running south off Minching Lane bridleway towards Rectory Farm. Full details of the scheme can be viewed on the website [www.bampton.org](http://www.bampton.org)

### Parish Priorities Statement (PPS)

The parish council distributed a questionnaire to all households in Bepton describing the purpose of the PPS as a way of contributing to the ongoing review of the SDNP Local Plan Review.

Residents were asked to give their views on the major topics as listed in the PPS document. The responses were then collated into this document by the parish council. The topics included Parish Vision, development and management of land, homes, jobs, infrastructure, design and the natural environment. The Bepton PPS submission to SDNP will shortly be added to the parish website.

### Midhurst Recycling Centre

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) will be introducing a new booking system from February 2024 at the Midhurst Recycling Centre that will allocate a 15 minute time slot to users with a maximum allowed 5 visits per calendar month. This system is currently in place at most of the other West Sussex recycling centres with the purpose of easing traffic congestion. To find out more about how to book a slot please visit [Book to Recycle booking system - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus)

### New Book a Bus 96 Flex Service

**Book-a-Bus 96 Flex** is a new bus service operating in the North West Chichester zone which includes Bepton. This bus service has no conventional route or timetable, but instead travels within a flexible zone determined by your bookings. The **96 Flex** can be booked on the day of travel or up to 24 hours before your journey. The bus can be booked using the **Ride Pingo app** or by phoning **01243 858854** between 6.30am-7.30pm Monday to Saturday. For more information visit [westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/book-a-bus).

## Neighbourhood Watch (NW)

Keep a lookout for your neighbours as we head in towards the harsh winter weather conditions. If you would like to be on the Bepton Community WhatsApp group, or know anyone who would like to be, please contact Ros Hart. If you have anything to report or see anything suspicious, please contact our NW coordinator Mike Freeman.

## Friends of Rother Valley Way

The Petersfield to Midhurst section of The Southern Railway closed in 1964. A section of the old railway passes through the parish of Bepton and crosses Severals Road. This community group of local individuals and organisations was formed in 2017, to establish a multi-user pathway between Petersfield and Midhurst following as far as possible, the route of the former railway. The long-term vision would be to link with the Centurion Way from Chichester to Midhurst and, as well as encouraging economic growth and vibrant communities, the aims of the group include providing residents and visitors with a dedicated and safe alternative to cycling, walking and horse-riding on busy roads and to be inclusive; The disabled and able bodied will both be able to use the Rother Valley Way. Accessible walking, wheeling and cycling helps reduce inequalities.

If you would like to get involved with this project and have any time to commit to helping deliver this traffic-free, shared-use path, please see the new website: [www.rothervalleyway.org.uk](http://www.rothervalleyway.org.uk)

## Bepton Village Green

The notice board on the green was renovated last summer and most of the posts around the parking area repaired. The work continues to repair the remaining posts and in the South of Bepton the notice board will be renovated in the coming months,

Parish councillors planted a multitude of spring bulbs on the green and a display of early crocuses followed by daffodils should greet us all in the coming months.

## News from St Mary's Church

### *Looking back*

While the church was being decorated with traditional harvest flowers and produce on a sunny Saturday morning, in preparation for the Sunday harvest festival service, donations from thoughtful, generous parishioners were delivered to St Marys. Baskets and boxes of food were gratefully received and included in the harvest display around the altar. Donations of canned and packaged foods as well as fresh produce were passed on to The Rother Valley Together (RVT) group at the Grange in Midhurst. This group is an activity and lunch club offering fun, friendship and support to those who have difficulty in getting out and about independently. A big thank you to everyone who made contributions.

On Remembrance Sunday, St Mary's Bepton, hosting Cocking, West Lavington and Heyshott parishes this year, the service was conducted by Fr. Jonathan Jong outside in the churchyard around the war memorial. Poppy wreaths of remembrance were laid by representatives of the four parishes under cloudy skies but thankfully it remained dry.

The old church organ finally gave up working in October after 22 years of faithful service. With kind and generous donations from parishioners a new organ was purchased and installed in time for this year's carol service. St Mary's was packed for the traditional carol service. Steaming mulled wine and seasonal delicacies were on offer after the service and a wonderful atmosphere of goodwill, conviviality and community made the afternoon most memorable.

### *Looking forward*

The PCC meets in the third week of January when dates will be finalised for 2024. However, we can all look forward to Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, on 13<sup>th</sup> February, preceding the first day of Lent on Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. Easter Sunday is on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

For details of regular services as well as any updates of events at St Mary's Church, please visit the website [www.bep-ton.org](http://www.bep-ton.org)

### **Bepton Parish Councillors:**

Chairman: Rosalind Hart 01730 815473  
Clerk: Lorraine Grocott 01428 741393  
Vice-Chairman: John Beckett (Planning)  
James Beaumont (Website)  
Ben Tyrell-Evans

Mike Freeman (Neighborhood Watch Coordinator)  
Paul McCulloch (Winter Resilience Plan)  
Sarah Port (Footpaths & Byways & Newsletter)  
[sarahportbep-tonpc@gmail.com](mailto:sarahportbep-tonpc@gmail.com)

