

Bepton Parish Council

Spring 2024 Newsletter



Flowers on the Village Green

On days of sunshine the newly planted crocuses and daffodils on the Village Green have offered bright and cheerful colour to early spring, augmenting the older mixed daffodils.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly of Bepton Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 9th May** at the Barn at The Park House Hotel from 7pm.

This year we have a presentation on the history of Bepton from our local resident Mike Freeman, that will be an intriguing history about the Bepton cricket pitch that was in use up until 1947 and many more facts that will surprise you about our parish. Please put his date in your diary and join us for refreshments and a community catch up.

Bepton Down Conservation Group

As a parish, we are lucky enough to have a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) on our doorstep. Bepton Down, that SSSI as well an Open Access Area managed by the Cowdray Estate, has a wealth of rare wildflowers indigenous to the chalk and limestone habitat of this area. This plant life creates the perfect habitat for insects including the endangered Duke of Burgundy butterfly which breeds on the cowslip plants. Sadly, the countryside decline of this species is largely due to habitat loss. This butterfly has very precise requirements and is just one example of the special species that could thrive if the downland is preserved. Preservation of our Bepton Down area is vital.

Beatrice Potter, who is a resident of Bepton, is a founding member of the Bepton Down Conservation Group, which was set up in 2015 to protect and enhance this SSSI and to encourage people to visit the Open Access Area of Bepton Down so that they could enjoy this unique area of chalk downland. Have a look at the blog of their website for a lot more interesting information beptondown.wordpress.com as well as the Bepton Down Interpretation Panel at the T junction of Bepton Road and Bell/Bugshill Lane. If you are interested in joining the group, contact sarahportbeptonpc@gmail.com

The Friends of St Mary's Church Bepton

This new group has been established to preserve the unique historic building of St Mary's Church for future generations. All funds raised by 'The Friends' will contribute to the maintenance and restoration of the church building. 'The Friends' will ensure the continued upkeep of this iconic symbol of the South Downs to benefit the public and the community.

Please come and join us on Bepton Village Green for **FREE CAKE** to find out more and to support 'The Friends' on **Saturday 1st June** at 10am- 2pm.

Volunteers Needed!

The Midhurst Community Hub, which is a one-stop-shop advice centre to assist people with issues such as debt/benefit management, eviction, issues with utility costs, job-seeking and much more, has launched a new initiative called "In Touch". In essence, this is a telephone buddying service whereby volunteer callers undertake to make calls to lonely people as loneliness and isolation are key issues identified with many of these people. If you could like to volunteer for this project, please contact mike@midhurstcommunityhub.co.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Matthew Isles, when visiting the Parish Council earlier in the year, suggested we should be aware that our outside sheds and storage places could be vulnerable as crime targets following some recent local incidents. We have also been warned about the possibility of bike scramblers on Midhurst Common. If you come across any, please make a note of the model, make and any registration number and kindly inform rosbeptonpc@gmail.com.

Shakespeare in The Orchard

For the third consecutive year the Troubadour Stageworks company will be performing at Padwicks Farm. The group of young talented and popular actors perform A Midsummer Night's Dream this year. Bring a picnic and save the date: **Friday 28th June**.

www.troubadourstageworks.com/products/a-midsummer-nights-dream-at-padwicks-farm

St Mary's Spring Clean

A willing team of Bepton residents enthusiastically tackled a good clean of St Mary's on a thankfully dry and sunny day. The churchyard paths were edged, gravestones cleared and cleaned, and the shrubs pruned back. Volunteers were rewarded with coffee supplied by Linda Sadler and delicious cake baked by Tessa Craddock.



Half Term Fun

Litter picking in Bepton offered up sacks full of rubbish when the Tyrrell-Evans family and others braved the atrocious elements during the half term break. It is doubtful that they, or any of us, could believe that the wet conditions would continue with very little respite for so long.

News from St Mary's Church

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for Bepton invites interest from local Bepton parishioners to join the Bepton St. Mary's PCC. Our wish is to strengthen the PCC at a time when we are entering into major restoration works of our lovely village church. Their role will be to assist with the direction of and to push forward with the PCC the future restoration works including liaising with the appointed Architects. Please contact in the first instance Alan Sadler, Treasurer Bepton St. Mary's PCC Tel 07930380979.

Looking Back

After the quiet weeks of Lent when no flowers are on display in the church, spring blooms in abundance decorated our pretty church for the Easter Sunday service.

Looking Forward

The annual Gift Day will be in mid-August.

Cocking and Bepton Church Fete will be on **Saturday 7th September**.

Sussex Historic Churches Ride and Stride event, on **14th September**, takes place across West Sussex. Get sponsorship and join this event that supports St Mary's Bepton as well as many other churches. Find out more and how you can get involved www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/sussex_ride_and_stride



Bepton Parish Councillors:

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

Paul McCulloch: (Winter Resilience Plan)
Ben Tyrrell-Evans
Sarah Port: (Footpaths & Byways & Newsletter)
sarahportbeptonpc@gmail.com