

# The Binfield Beacon



Your Binfield Parish Community Magazine - there's lots going on at home!

**The Smell of Rain**

**February 2021**

## **This Month**

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Image from Pixabay

**Our Mission is to help people follow Jesus and his teachings**

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RECTOR



### The Smell of Rain

A cold March wind danced around the dead of night in Dallas as the doctor walked into the small hospital room of Diana Blessing. Still groggy from surgery, her husband David held her hand as they braced themselves for the latest news. That afternoon of March 10, 1991, complications had forced Diana, only 24-weeks pregnant, to undergo an emergency cesarean to deliver the couple's new daughter, Danae Lu Blessing. At 12 inches long and weighing only one pound and nine ounces, they already knew she was perilously premature. Still, the doctor's soft words dropped like bombs. 'I don't think she's going to make it', he said, as kindly as he could. "There's only a 10-percent chance she will live through the night, and even then, if by some slim chance she does make it, her future could be a very cruel one."

Numb with disbelief, David and Diana listened as the doctor described the devastating problems Danae would likely face if she survived. She would never walk, she would never talk, she would probably be blind, and she would certainly be prone to other catastrophic conditions from cerebral palsy to complete mental retardation, and on and on. "No! No!" was all Diana could say. She and David, with their 5-year-old son Dustin, had long dreamed of the day they would have a daughter to become a family of four. Now, within a matter of hours, that dream was slipping away. Through the dark hours of morning as Danae held onto life by the thinnest thread, Diana slipped in and out of sleep, growing more and more determined that their tiny daughter would live-and live to be a healthy, happy young girl.

But David, fully awake and listening to additional dire details of their daughter's chances of ever leaving the hospital alive, much less healthy, knew he must confront his wife with the inevitable. David walked in and said that we needed to talk about making funeral arrangements. Diana remembers 'I felt so bad for him because he was doing everything, trying to include me in what was going on, but I just wouldn't listen, I couldn't listen.' I said, "No, that is not going to happen, no way! I don't care what the doctors say; Danae is not going to die! One day she will be just fine, and she will be coming home with us!"

As if willed to live by Diana's determination, Danae clung to life hour after hour, with the help of every medical machine and marvel her miniature body could endure. But as those first days passed, a new agony set in for David and Diana. Because Danae's under-developed nervous system was

essentially 'raw,' the lightest kiss or caress only intensified her discomfort, so they couldn't even cradle their tiny baby girl against their chests to offer the strength of their love. All they could do, as Danae struggled alone beneath the ultraviolet light in the tangle of tubes and wires, was to pray that God would stay close to their precious little girl. There was never a moment when Danae suddenly grew stronger.

But as the weeks went by, she did slowly gain an ounce of weight here and an ounce of strength there. At last, when Danae turned two months old, her parents were able to hold her in their arms for the very first time. And two months later-though doctors continued to gently but grimly warn that her chances of surviving, much less living any kind of normal life, were next to zero. Danae went home from the hospital, just as her mother had predicted.

Today, five years later, Danae is a petite but feisty young girl with glittering gray eyes and an unquenchable zest for life. She shows no signs, whatsoever, of any mental or physical impairment. Simply, she is everything a little girl can be and more but that happy ending is far from the end of her story.

One blistering afternoon in the summer of 1996 near her home in Irving, Texas, Danae was sitting in her mother's lap in the bleachers of a local ballpark where her brother Dustin's baseball team was practicing. As always, Danae was chattering non-stop with her mother and several other adults sitting nearby when she suddenly fell silent. Hugging her arms across her chest, Danae asked, "Do you smell that?" Smelling the air and detecting the approach of a thunderstorm, Diana replied, "Yes, it smells like rain." Danae closed her eyes and again asked, "Do you smell that?" Once again, her mother replied, "Yes, I think we're about to get wet, it smells like rain." Still caught in the moment, Danae shook her head, patted her thin shoulders with her small hands and loudly announced, "No, it smells like Him. It smells like God when you lay your head on His chest." Tears blurred Diana's eyes as Danae then happily hopped down to play with the other children.



Before the rains came, her daughter's words confirmed what Diana and all the members of the extended Blessing family had known, at least in their hearts, all along. During those long days and

nights of her first two months of her life, when her nerves were too sensitive for them to touch her, God was holding Danae on His chest and it is His loving scent that she remembers so well.

Next time it's raining and you want to complain that you might get wet, let's be honest, we all do it, why not stop for a moment and take a deep breath in through your nose and see if you too can smell God. If you can't, don't worry, just remember these words that Jesus said, "I am with you always, even until the end of this age" Matthew 28 v 20.

—**Author Unknown**—Story taken from

[http://godslittleacre.net/inspirationalstories/the\\_smell\\_of\\_rain.html](http://godslittleacre.net/inspirationalstories/the_smell_of_rain.html)

**Luke**



# CHURCH NEWS

## SERVICES

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 the Church is closed and all our congregations' services and Church activities are suspended until further notice.



During this time Luke is posting online talks and Church services on his YouTube Channel:

**The Rev from the Shed**

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtq1gasp7Nchm6-QS4I7CYQ>)



Or on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks/>

You can also keep up-to-date with any information on the Church website: <http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/>



## New Talk series - 'Ask me anything'

Alongside his weekly Talks to help and encourage, Luke is running a new series called 'Ask me anything'. If there is topic that you would like to hear a talk about, Luke will do his best to address it. Please email Luke at [lukethevicar@gmail.com](mailto:lukethevicar@gmail.com).

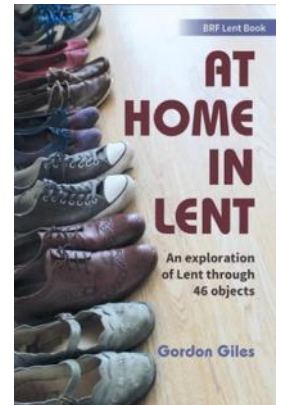
## LENT COURSE

**17th February to 3rd April**

For our Lent course this year, we will be using the book 'At home in Lent'. An exploration of Lent through 46 objects by Gordon Giles. The title seems somewhat appropriate for Lockdown!

Gordon Giles spends each week in different rooms gleaning spiritual lessons from everyday household objects. As a result, you might discover that finding God in the normal pattern of life, even in the mundane, transforms how you approach every day.

The book can be purchased [here](#) from Amazon.



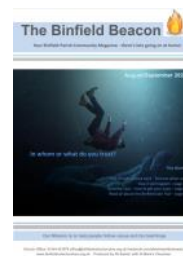
## Never miss an issue of the Beacon

Would you like to receive an electronic full colour copy of the Binfield Beacon emailed to you every month?

If so please email

[beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

with your name and email address to be added to the mailing list.



Alternatively visit:

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/binfield-beacon/](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/binfield-beacon/)

where a colour version of the Beacon is published

online each month.

## From the Registers:



Photo by [Lesley Davidson on Unsplash](#)

## Funerals

Kathleen Taylor  
Barbera Ironmonger

## The Binfield Beacon



The deadline for Beacon contributions for the March 2021 issue (which will be online only again) is Wed 17th February 2021

Please email:

[Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)

# HELPING EACH OTHER

## Pastoral Care Visiting Team - need a friend?



In All Saints' and St Mark's Churches we have a small pastoral care team who are happy to visit and befriend the people of Binfield. So, if you have recently moved to the area and don't know many people; if your family live far away; if you are a Mum at home with a baby and would like adult company; if you find it difficult to get out or just fancy a friendly chat over a cup of tea, please get in touch with one of us. You don't need to be a member of the church, just enjoy some company occasionally!

<b>Jane Aylwin</b>	<b>tel. 481692</b>
<b>Jill Hanson</b>	<b>tel. 452694</b>
<b>Margareta Hawkins</b>	<b>tel. 411681</b>
<b>Sarah Muller</b>	<b>tel. 428782</b>
<b>Jan Vigar</b>	<b>tel. 411267</b>
<b>Gisele Taylor</b>	<b>tel. 07724 889169</b>
<b>Dave Dawson</b>	<b>tel. 360389</b>

*Or contact the church office on 07719 545292  
or email [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)*



## Bereavement Support Team

We will all suffer loss, grief or bereavement at some time in our lives, mainly through death, but also in other ways such as relationship breakdown, loss of a job, or sudden disability. The Bereavement Support Team are not counsellors, but can offer support and companionship if you are suffering a loss of any kind.

There is no charge for a visit. All support team members are DBS checked and have ID badges.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team, in confidence, please contact Liz Hall for more information  
[orinocco@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orinocco@hotmail.co.uk) /07850 799434



### Praying for and with you

We have weekly prayer sheets — please email [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk) if you would like something to be included.

## All Saints' Church - Welcoming/Cleaning Team Can you help?

If you would like to be part of the new welcoming/cleaning team, once church re-opens, please can you email Hayley at the Church office — [office@binfieldcofechurch.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurch.org.uk).

Due to the government guidelines on Covid 19 we ask that only those who are under the age of 70, those who do not have any health conditions that put them at risk, or those who are not taking medication (that put them in the vulnerable category) offer to help.

## CONTACT US: 07719 545292 [office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Rector:

Revd Luke Taylor  
07939 526361  
[lukethevicar@gmail.com](mailto:lukethevicar@gmail.com)  
(Friday is Luke's day off)

### Churchwardens:

John Hargreaves - 07973 842624  
Neil Harrison - 01344 455174

### Church Office: \*PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER

Hayley Fourie, Administrator  
**Office mobile number 07719 545292**  
[office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Office opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Wednesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm  
Thursday: 9.00am - 1.00pm  
(Hayley will be working from home until further notice but can be contacted on the email or number above)

### Binfield Beacon Editor:

Claire Thomas  
[beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

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07809 736372

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Michael Hawkins  
01344 411681

### Bell Tower Captain:

Jan Glen  
07840 104455

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### Stewardship Secretary:

Andrea White  
01344 421079

### ARC Fundraising Team

[fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)

### Church Website:

[www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](http://www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)



We are also on Facebook  
[facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks](https://facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks)

The Church Office is sited in St Mark's Church  
**St Mark's Church**  
Popeswood Road  
Binfield RG42 4AH

### All Saints' Church

Church Hill  
Binfield RG42 5NS

### PLEASE LET US STAY IN TOUCH!

We would like to improve our communication with everyone in the village and congregation. To do this we need to keep our contacts database up to date. We have a new privacy policy in line with the new GDPR rules on our website.

If you would like to sign up to receive emails from us regarding updates, news and events from the parish please go to this webpage:

<http://eepurl.com/dtqaqr>

**PLEASE NOTE:** The articles in this magazine reflect the personal opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or Editorial Team. Furthermore the Editorial Team are not responsible for any errors of fact printed in the magazine. Goods and services advertised in this magazine are not endorsed but readers utilising these facilities retain their statutory rights. The Binfield Beacon is produced by The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Binfield. Registered Charity number 1149382

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## Looking ahead to a new year...

We hope that you are all staying safe and well at the start of this new year. We know that Christmas time, or indeed much of last year, wasn't as joyous or eventful as we had all hoped, but we really appreciate that you were still so supportive of our fundraising ideas and initiatives. It meant that we could continue to carry out as many repairs as possible on All Saints' church and to continue with our outreach projects such as the Lighthouse Program, holiday lunches and COVID parcels, and just keep the church running in difficult times.

We are really pleased that you appreciated the fantastic photos in our 2021 Binfield Calendar as most copies have now all been sold, along with plenty of tea towels and Christmas cards. There have been many requests for Luke to paint your houses, and many wonderful Gingerbread houses were also bought to help with the festive celebrations. We hope that if you took the opportunity over the Christmas period to do the Nativity Scramble, that you enjoyed our first Christmas trail. We are really pleased that it raised £99.60 for the Lighthouse Program. All funds donated to this project are gratefully received as they are currently feeding up to 90 people in need on a weekly basis. During this year, as a church, we will still be trying to support as many people as possible in many different ways; we are hoping to get the ceiling at St. Mark's fixed so that it can re-open as a community venue as soon as restrictions allow, whilst ensuring that the Lighthouse Program is not disrupted, the Clothes Bank will be continuing to support requests when needed, and we will continue to try to ensure that our historic All Saints' will be fixed and improved so that it can continue to be a church for our village for as long as possible. Your support in all this, in whatever way you are able to, will always be greatly appreciated!



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[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

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**ASOS** **JUST EAT**

**Currys** **PC World** **BT**

**Apple** **GROUPON**

## amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

[smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk)

Search for 'Binfield' and choose  
The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Binfield



## How to donate or fundraise:

We would really appreciate your donation; however big or small, it will all help!



- **Cheque:** send a cheque to the church office. Please make sure it's made payable to "Binfield PCC". Please write 'ARC', 'General Funds' or 'Lighthouse' on the back and include your name and address if you are a UK tax payer so that we can claim Gift Aid.
- **BACS:** Name: Binfield PCC, Account Number: 80175528, Sort Code: 20-11-74  
Please add **your name + ARC/General/Lighthouse** as a reference and if you would like to specify where your donation goes.

**Don't forget to Gift Aid it if you are a UK Tax Payer - this will add an extra 25% to your donation! Contact the church office for more details, or see the church website more information and other ways to raise money!**

With many thanks from the Fundraising Team: [fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk)  
[www.binfieldarcproject.org.uk](http://www.binfieldarcproject.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/binfieldarcproject](http://www.facebook.com/binfieldarcproject)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Binfield: Registered Charity No: 1149382



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Hey Everyone!

We hope you're having a wonderful start to the new year, and are looking forward to warmer and longer days to come!

We are still unsure of what 2021 will bring us, but at the moment the youth and kids are currently still meeting online every week, which is almost as good as the real thing.



Whizz Kids ended the term where we learned about 'Old Testament Heroes' with a virtual Christmas party filled with craft, songs and games to get us into the Christmas spirit. This coming term will bring us loads more activities, stories, games and more as we explore faith together and have fun while doing it!



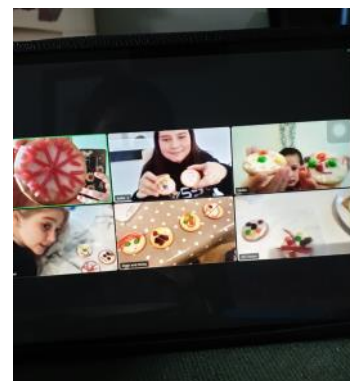
At Oasis we've been letting off loads of steam by playing endless games of among us and chatting about the worries and stresses that we face at the moment. We also did a 'Big Fat Quiz of 2020!' And re-capped all the news, good, bad and funny, that happened last year. Here's one for you... How much did Sir Captain Tom Moore raise for charity in total by walking round his garden? Answer at the end... no cheating!

It was a tough old year in 2020 but we've been amazed at how the community has come together to support each other, so thank you for all you have done to keep us going! And thank goodness for technology, because we'd really have struggled to stay connected without it.

If you have a child in school years 1-6 and would like to join us for zoom calls on Sunday morning, or have a secondary school aged girl that would like to join our weekly sessions, do send me an email and we would love to get them involved!

See you all soon, (hopefully!)

**Daisy - Children's and Youth Worker**  
([daisyridell@gmail.com](mailto:daisyridell@gmail.com))



P.S It was £33million!

## LOCKDOWN WORDSEARCH

baking	dog walks	social distance
board games	home schooling	two metres
bubble	jigsaw puzzles	vaccination
captain tom	masks	virtual
craft	online quiz	walking
cycling	pfizer	wash hands
daily exercise	running	zoom

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Binfield Lighthouse Programme News

The Lighthouse Program has continued to support a growing need in the local area. We are now supporting circa 100 people. We are helping individuals, couples and a number of young families, where the current circumstance have hit hardest. We are providing home cooked meals and essential provisions.

Christmas was a particular success. We found sponsorship for all the family lunches, and hampers were delivered enabling the families to cook their traditional lunch themselves. A further 60 people enjoyed a fully prepared meal which was delivered directly to them on Christmas Day.

Every cloud has a silver lining and fortunately for us we were very grateful for the tremendous amount of donations of foods over December as Lock Down rules became more restrictive. Schools, cafe's, bars, restaurants and the Share program all provided surplus foods that we were able to cook and distribute. The coming together of the local community and diverse organizations can not be under estimated.



December was, and has historically been, the month in which we receive the majority of our cash donations too. A huge thanks to all that have supported us. Monies are being used to purchase meats and the more expensive items that our volunteer cooks use to create well balanced meals.

I would like to call out "danetti" as a particular sponsor of our program. danetti has provided essential items on our behalf and supported us with kit/equipment that has made our lives so much easier and more efficient. This really has been a Godsend as our numbers continue to increase and we rely on voluntary support.

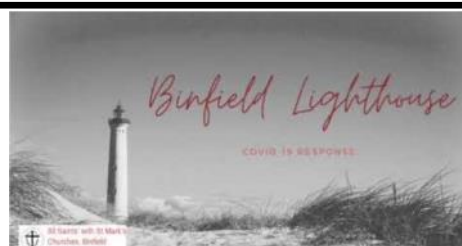
Further good news is that both St Josephs and Newbold Church have joined us with the cooking and delivery of meals. This additional help is fantastic for our client base who will now receive a food parcel on both a Tuesday and a Saturday, across the two deliveries there will be a minimum of 7 home cooked meals per person per week.

On a weekly basis we are delivering approx. 800 meals. It's a tall order!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are often asked what help you the readers can provide. We are always in need of fruit juices, cereals, milk, fruit and "snack" items. Any donations can be left at St Marks porch and will be taken in daily.

For further information contact [Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk)



Check out this short video of Amanda Thrower explaining what an incredible job her, and the whole Lighthouse team are doing for those in need during the pandemic.

[Lighthouse Charity Video - YouTube](#)



### GB Bobsleigh Update

Following the article in last months Beacon, here's an update on how the Bobsleigh season progressed for GB Athlete and local Binfield resident Emily Barrett.

Emily and her pilot Felicity Bee have recently produced significantly improved results from their outing in Winterberg in December. Barrett and Bee, who were racing together for only the second time, finished 8th of 14 sleds at their race on 15th January in Igls, Austria, having been 16 of 17 last time out in Winterberg.

Medical graduate Felicity has only been racing 2-woman sleds for a few weeks having competed solely in monobob last season but she and Barrett beat a number of more experienced outfits, plus the Youth Olympic Champion, in a field that included an Olympic gold medalist and a multiple World Cup winner.

Emily would like to say a big thank you to those who have contributed towards her GoFundMe page. It enabled her to head back out on season after Christmas and compete at the European Cup achieving her best result since she started competing for GB last year.

#### Can you help?

Emily and Felicity are still looking for support and sponsorship to help towards training camps and next season. Between them, they have to personally fund the cost of training, travel, accommodation, nutrition, sports equipment, team kit and physiotherapy expenses with no help from UK Sport or Lottery Funding.

If you are interested in sponsoring them or helping in anyway, please contact Emily at [emily.jo.barrett@hotmail.com](mailto:emily.jo.barrett@hotmail.com).

Emily's GoFundMe page can be found here: [https://www.gofundme.com/f/FUND\\_URL?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_campaign=p\\_nacp+share-sheet&rcid=870b12b006df4591815d27ae7f9e34a8](https://www.gofundme.com/f/FUND_URL?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_nacp+share-sheet&rcid=870b12b006df4591815d27ae7f9e34a8)

An inspirational short video of their season can be found here, please show your support and give it a watch: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CKZqE-Tnu7h/?igshid=1kgwemjw44tsv>





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## News from the Parish Office – February 2021 (correct as of 11 January 2021)

### Binfield Parish Council upcoming meetings:

The Parish Council and Committee meetings are being held virtually using Microsoft Teams with a link, agenda and meeting report pack issued one week in advance on the Parish Council's website. If you would like to speak at a meeting, then please contact the parish office by 12 noon on the day of the meeting for specific instructions.

*Please note: You do not need the Microsoft Teams application to join meetings as you can join via a web browser.*

### February 2021

Tuesday 2 February	Amenity Committee	8pm
Tuesday 9 February	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 23 February	Planning & Transportation Committee	8pm

**Please find an update from Binfield Parish Council on impact to the Parish Council service provision due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Restrictions announced on 4 January 2021:**

### Parks & Open Spaces

- ◇ Parks and Play areas remain open\*
- ◇ The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) located at Foxley Fields is **CLOSED**
- ◇ The Red Rose Allotments remain open\*
- ◇ The Parish Warden continues to check open spaces, play areas, and litter pick
- ◇ The tennis courts (Binfield Tennis Association) located at Foxley Fields are **CLOSED**

\* Social distancing rules must be adhered to and can be found at [.GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

### Services

- ◇ The Parish Council building remains **CLOSED**, including meeting rooms
- ◇ Contact the Parish Council via email, telephone (leave a message so we can contact you), post or using the [online form](#)
- ◇ Parish Council and Committee meetings are running virtually. Please check the Parish Council meeting calendar on the home page of the website for details
- ◇ Foodbank donations should be taken directly to the [Kerith Community Church](#). Please check their opening times before arriving. Please check the Parish Council website and/or Facebook page for ad hoc donation slots that we may be able to facilitate over the next month
- ◇ Garden waste bags can be supplied by doorstep delivery by contacting the Parish Council office
- ◇ The Foxes' Den community café is closed

### **Bracknell Forest Community Response for those who are shielding**

The Bracknell Forest Community Response can help advise you on how to get food and supplies by either:

- online shopping
- telephone shopping
- arranging delivery of medical supplies
- volunteers shopping for you

You will need to pay for this shopping - the shopping will not be free - but the service itself is. Contact the Bracknell Forest Community Response by email: [community@theark.org.uk](mailto:community@theark.org.uk), or phone: 01344 266911, between 8am and 8pm.

### **Road safety for King's Academy Binfield**

The Parish Council has been in talks with local residents and Bracknell Forest Councillors around the issue of road safety for King's Academy. This is likely to include a road crossing point on Forest Road and improved signage on the roads around the school. Further details will be published to the Parish Council website as they are received.

### **Could you be a Parish Councillor?**

There is a current vacancy to be filled by co-option. Please visit the [Parish Council website](#) to check application criteria, find out how to apply, and more about the role of a Councillor.

### **Sponsor a Street scheme – could you spare some time to help?**

Could you help to keep our Parish clean and tidy with the help of a litter picking kit? This is an outdoor activity and social distancing can be maintained. If you are interested, please do [get in touch](#) with us.

Ally, Amanda, Janet, Purveen & Kirsty

01344 454602/Binfield Parish Council at the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road, Binfield, RG42 4EW

Parish Office working hours (all staff are working remotely): 8.45am-1pm Monday to Friday

[office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

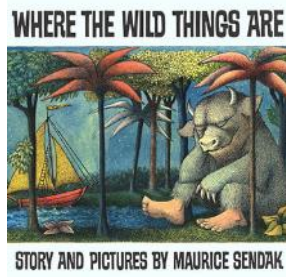
[www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY NEWS



In Maurice Sendak's wonderful children's book "Where The Wild Things Are", the protagonist Max travels to a remote island to become the king of the wild things. We don't need to travel anywhere near as far to enjoy Binfield's wild things.

Towards the end of 2020 I realised that some of the most amazing wild things in our area can actually be found in some of the least promising places. A few examples include the newt colony in an abandoned brickworks, the slow worms on a former industrial site and the barn owls in our sewage works. One of my favourite local places is where a path passes through a line of trees separating open countryside from a newish housing estate. There are always birds going about their business on the housing estate side of the trees, from the small birds searching for food in the hedgerow to larger birds on and above the house, on the lookout for food put out by the home-owners. I am convinced that there are more species of birds in the area now than there were when it was farm fields.



Binfield Environment Group members have been carrying out regular surveys on a number of sites across the parish. We now have enough data to show that almost twice as many species of birds and a third more species of butterflies are turning up at the new park at Blue Mountain compared with the established park at Wicks Green. One of the reasons for this is the greater variety of habitats at Blue Mountain, some of which are temporarily created as the site is developed. For example, some of the plants sought out by butterflies like to grow in disturbed ground.

Conservationists are beginning to recognise that some of the sites we try to protect are less valuable in terms of biodiversity than some of the sites we overlook and that some of our interventions are driven more by our own views of what the country should look like rather than good science.

One of the things that I intend to do in 2021, and I encourage you to join me, is to pay a bit more attention to some of the less tidy parts of the parish. Nature thrives in the areas that we neglect, from unkempt gardens to abandoned quarries. I have a couple of sites that I want to survey this year that have been left alone for a year or more.

Binfield Environment Group can be contacted by email at [binfieldeg@gmail.com](mailto:binfieldeg@gmail.com) or on Facebook.

**Mike Coker**



### The Binfield Belles

A slightly belated Happy New year to all, 2021 we have waited so long for the turning of 2020 and still we find ourselves in the same or similar situation as last year. However, it's good to be optimistic and I know soon we will be seeing change for the better.

Having tasted freedom in those autumn days when we could meet up in small groups for a walk or coffee or even the book club. I have to comment that the slower the book club meet up the better it is for me; I must be the slowest reader in the world even with all this free time. Although our ladies have all been busy with craft, cooking, gardening and many other pleasures at home ...Ha Ha just remembered jig saws always good to keep you occupied!!

Missing all those Autumn pursuits but we made a Christmas effort when the

committee arranged a Christmas bag for all the members which was delivered in December. Homemade goodies and craft articles and an Amaryllis to plant, it spread lots of Christmas cheer.

We are still keeping in touch with the bush telegraph every day by email and our ladies can all access each other by phone, text or email or on occasions a doorstep call to see if they are ok. This has proved a lifeline and we will continue as long as necessary; we are getting plenty of feedback whether its Binfield blooms that included trees, wreaths and Christmas Decorations, we are now on January Craft and its lovely to see what creative members we have, some unexpected. We have



sent songs from every era... singalong or dance along and jokes, topical quotes and stories and some great videos. Zoom hasn't been top of our list although I know some members do keep fit this way, generally we haven't pursued that. Luckily a majority of members are local and see each other on walks or on the green or even sitting on the bench, socially distanced as we pass by, we can have a few words together.

Sue, our resident birthday card lady, takes around or sends out our birthday cards every month for members to receive on their special day. We thank her for doing this she says it keeps her fit as well.

Some of our older members have received the vaccine and more will in the coming weeks I know. Meanwhile life around us is going on and we look forward to all meeting up again when safe to do so. Sometimes it's a hard day and we all get fed up but the friendship and caring that we have within our group is something money can't buy. Always a friend to have a chat with. We have even managed to introduce new members within the group over the past few months our doors are always open to new friends,

When you read this, we will be in February with spring just around the corner let's look at nature and hope our country regenerates eventually after all this pandemic and uncertainty is over. I am sure the WI will regenerate again, in over 100yrs of Binfield WI they have seen many changes and I for one are looking forward to that day.

Take care. Keep safe but above all look after each other. Till our next catch up.

**Linda Willcocks**

**01344 454503/07708731294**





## Walk around Wicks Green and Billingbear - 3 km

This walk includes two grassy paths which can be muddy after rain. It is not recommended for buggies. Dogs should be kept on leads in the Billingbear section.

Start at the car park on Stevenson Drive. Travelling north from the village centre on Terrace Road North pass The Victoria Arms and turn left at the roundabout onto Stevenson Drive. Follow this road round to the left and immediately after a mini roundabout the gravel car park is on the right.

On the north side of the car park (right side as you drove in) take the gravelled path past an information board and around the edge of the park to the north-west corner. Pass through a small gate and turn right along Wicks Green. Pass Wicks Green Cottages (a Grade II listed building originally built in the 16th century). Take the footpath on the left, into the field opposite the cottages, and follow the right-hand field edge almost reversing your previous direction.



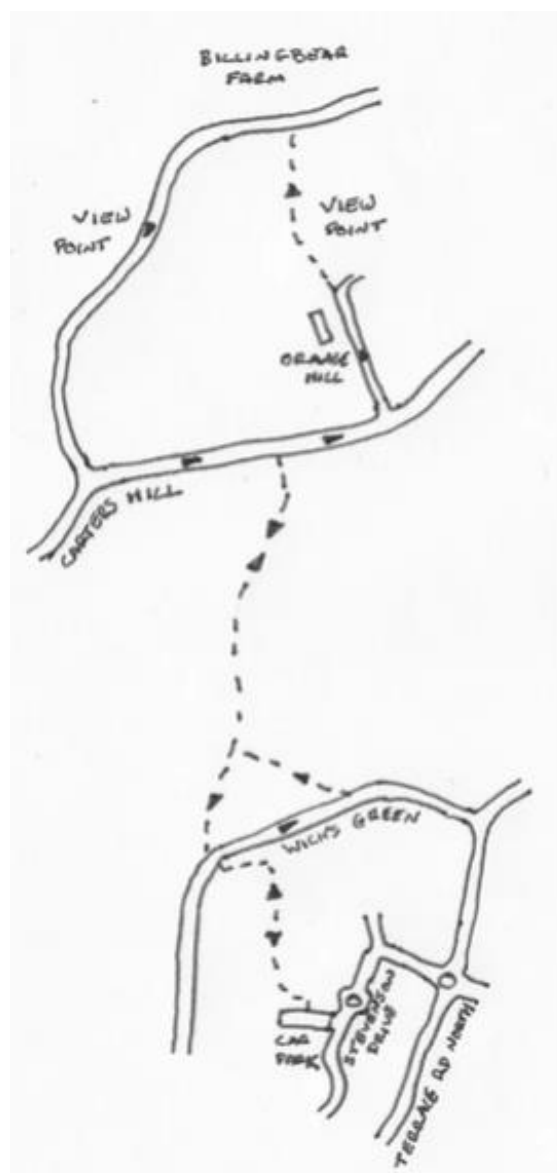
*Path entrance opposite cottages*

At a T-junction of paths turn right and follow the left hand edge of a much larger field up the hill. When you reach a road (Carters Hill) turn right. After a few metres look right to get a view across Binfield towards Surrey. Carry on along the road and at a drive on the left turn along it. This drive is also signed as a footpath and part of the Rambler's Route (a black arrow with three heads on a white background). The Rambler's Route is a 26 mile circuit of the countryside around Bracknell, and full details can be found on Bracknell Forest Council's website.

Walk up the drive past Orange Hill House. As the lane bears right, pass through a gap in the hedge on the left and cross the field to a gate and stile. As you cross into the next field enjoy the view to the north-east. Follow the hedge on the left to Billingbear Lane. Turn left and follow the lane through the hamlet of Billingbear looking out for views on your right across the Thames Valley to the north-west.

When the road reaches a T-junction turn left walking on the grass verge past the walled garden of Billingbear House (an 18th Century building in a lovely parkland setting) until you reach the path on the right that you came up earlier. Follow this downhill, going straight ahead when you reach the path junction in the smaller field. When you reach Wicks Green you will see the gate back into the park on your left.

This walk is taken from the Binfield Walk Pack available from <https://binfielddeg.wixsite.com/binfielddeg/binfield-walkers-pack>



*Park entrance from the Car Park off Stevenson Drive*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# The Foxes' Den



COFFEE FOOD COMMUNITY

## Hello Binfield!

We are missing you all so much! I am very sorry that from January 5<sup>th</sup>/lockdown version 3 I decided to close the café when according to the rules I didn't have to. As has been discussed so often in the media – there is a conflict with coffee shops and the rules – yes to takeaways, but no to non-essential coffee/cake/toasties and congregating and queuing for non-essential reasons is just dangerous in these times. It has been a struggle to explain it each time when someone asks why; I know how much the mental health of our lovely customers is given a boost when they come to see us, but it is my staff's, my customers' and the wider community's physical health that I want to give priority to.

As we move into February, hopefully we can plan on opening up the takeaway window again; meanwhile please stay home and stay safe xx

*Thanks for reading! Stay well  
Claire*

**FOXY LUNCHES – even though we are closed we are still offering our FOXY LUNCHES. If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family, please don't go hungry. Call or email me in the strictest confidence and we will make sure that you have food on your table [claire@foxesden.co.uk](mailto:claire@foxesden.co.uk) xx**

[foxesden.co.uk](http://foxesden.co.uk) [fb.com/thefoxesdencafe](https://fb.com/thefoxesdencafe) 07919 448254  
Benetfeld Road, Binfield. RG42 4EW

### Charity Support

In these unprecedented times with so many individuals being unable to work and unable to feed and clothe themselves and their families, the demand on charities has increased hugely – even in our area. While the Den is closed we have been doing our best to reach out and help where we can. We had a very successful and covid-safe donation drop point mid January, where we collected FoodBank donations for Bracknell FoodBank and clothing donations for The Cowshed – a Wokingham-based crisis charity ([www.thecowshed.org](http://www.thecowshed.org)). Charity work is considered an essential activity by the government and we had over 150 bags donated – thank you so much to everyone who followed our procedures and added the drop to their exercise/essential journey. It was a fantastic session - we even had the police stop by and they were happy that we had everything in order. We do plan to do this again – so watch this space and our facebook page @thefoxesdencafe for updates. Please also get in touch if you have any other suggestions of how we can help...



### The Official Binfield 2021 Calendar

Thank you so much to everyone who has purchased their Official Binfield 2021 Calendar. Much needed funds will be going to our 2 village churches. Have you got yours?! We only have 3 left! If you would still like one, please email [claire@foxesden.co.uk](mailto:claire@foxesden.co.uk) and we will arrange to drop it to you on our evening exercise walk...



**F.O.B.S.**  
Friends of Binfield School

## Thank you!

*We would like to thank all of those that supported our Binfield Virtual Christmas in aid of FOBS.*

*Your support means that we raised an amazing £2,500 for Binfield Primary and we will be able to purchase more IT equipment to help our children's learning and development.*

*We will continue to fundraise throughout 2021 and there are a few ways you can help do this:*

*Sign up for Amazon Smile and shop online via EasyFundraising  
(Choose FOBS as your charity & we will benefit from a percentage of your purchases at no extra cost to you)*

*Play the Bracknell Forest Lottery  
(Be in it to win prizes up to £25,000 and FOBS will get 50p for every £1 ticket you purchase)*

*Thank you for your continued support  
FOBS and all the children at Binfield Primary*



visit: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
search: Friends of Binfield School (FOBS)



Link your online account or app to support:  
Friends of Binfield School (FOBS)

To start supporting, visit:

[www.BracknellForestLottery.co.uk](http://www.BracknellForestLottery.co.uk)  
and search for: **FOBS**

\*Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## BINFIELD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



### New Virtual Tour launched on our website!

We have budding directors and presenters in our school! The children and teachers have been working hard recently to capture life at Binfield C.E Primary School ready for prospective parents.



If you are considering Binfield C.E Primary for your child this September, please visit <https://www.binfieldschool.co.uk/admissions/> to view our new video. There is also a helpful FAQ section on this page with an opportunity to ask any further questions after watching our tour.



Last term we remained open to all of our children and we even managed to celebrate Christmas with an adjusted approach to previous years, complete with a special visit from Father Christmas and a festive lunch in their classrooms.



The new year has begun with both the school open to vulnerable and critical worker and providing remote learning to everyone else at the same time. This has given the team at Binfield the chance to embrace technology and multi task – although we can't be in two places at once! Staff are working flat-out to ensure everyone is learning and keeping safe!





# COMMUNITY NEWS



## BINFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

In light of the Prime Minister's announcement on 4<sup>th</sup> January of a National lockdown: stay at home instruction, Binfield library is closed and we have had to suspend the "Select and Collect" service until this restriction is lifted. We shall fulfill your requests as soon as this national emergency recedes.

We are still offering computer sessions for essential use only for limited hours. The slots must be:

- pre-booked via phone
- 30 minutes only, once a day
- for essential reasons only.

To access the building for your computer session you need to wear your mask, sanitise your hands at the entrance and register with the NHS Test and Trace app.

Call us at 01344 306663 to book. Staffed hours can be found here: [Binfield Library | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](http://binfield.library.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

You can return your books using the letter box at the side entrance, in the car park. You can also renew them online or calling the library.

### Reading group via Zoom

We have a regular book group discussion via

Zoom. Every month we discuss an e-book, so you can read it from home. Check our website for February's date and instructions on how to register. All is free.

More virtual events for adults and children are listed here: [Virtual library events | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](http://bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

*Giulia Gagliardi*

## HAPPINESS CHEMICALS AND HOW TO HACK THEM

<b>DOPAMINE</b> <b>THE REWARD CHEMICAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing a task</li> <li>• Doing self-care activities</li> <li>• Eating food</li> <li>• Celebrating little wins</li> </ul>	<b>OXYTOCIN</b> <b>THE LOVE HORMONE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing with a dog</li> <li>• Playing with a baby</li> <li>• Holding hands</li> <li>• Hugging your family</li> <li>• Give a compliment</li> </ul>
<b>SEROTONIN</b> <b>THE MOOD STABILIZER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meditating</li> <li>• Running</li> <li>• Sun exposure</li> <li>• Walk in nature</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Cycling</li> </ul>	<b>ENDORPHIN</b> <b>THE PAIN KILLER</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laughter exercise</li> <li>• Essential oils</li> <li>• Watch a comedy</li> <li>• Dark chocolate</li> <li>• Exercising</li> </ul>



## ACTION CALENDAR: FRIENDLY FEBRUARY 2021



### MONDAY

1 Send someone a message to say how much they mean to you

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

15 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

### TUESDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

### WEDNESDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone else

10 Look for the good in people, even when they frustrate you

17 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

24 Tell a loved one about their strengths that you value most

### THURSDAY

4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with colleagues or friends

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

18 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

### FRIDAY

5 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

19 Share a video or message you find inspiring or helpful

26 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

### SATURDAY

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

13 Send a friendly message of support to a local business

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

### SUNDAY

7 Make an effort to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

14 Tell your loved ones why they are special to you

21 Actively listen to what people say, without judging them

28 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones



"The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up" - Mark Twain



"The only way to have a friend is to be one" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**



[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february)

**Happier · Kinder · Together**





## Binfield Garden Club

A belated Happy New Year to everyone with this first report of 2021. We have a glimmer of hope for the future but for now there will still be no meetings face to face. We will be holding our AGM online in March and are tentatively attempting plans to hold our very popular annual plant sale somewhere outside in May or June.



In January and February of the past years our speakers have covered such interesting subjects including The Healing Power of Plants, antique garden tools and The Woodland Trust. This year, without a meeting, let's think about what to look for outside. Coming into flower will be Witch Hazels, Daphnes,

winter flowering honeysuckles, early magnolias and pussy willow. On the ground look for snowdrops, winter aconites, celandines, primroses and sweet violets.

Also, with the trees still bare, try to identify them by their buds/thorns/catkins/bark/winter tree shape and look on the ground for old leaves and their fruit. Google a Tree Guide App or try the Natural History Museum which provides a PDF of tree identification. On the subject of trees, Ralph has written a very interesting piece about the minaret tree.

*"I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree"*  
- Joyce Kilmer 1913"

If the Spreading Chestnut tree and giant oak are epics of the tree world then the humble minaret is merely an ode or couplet. Nevertheless it can be an attractive and productive addition to even a quite small garden. The tree is purchased as a single upright trunk, quite like a thick runner-bean stick grafted onto suitable dwarf root-stock. There are no branches but only short twigs every 20 cm or so, on which fruit buds will

form. Consequently they need very little space, say a square metre or so, and are happy near walls or fences provided they get some sunshine. Be sure to stake them initially; when I thought it unnecessary in a sheltered spot it proved me wrong and hard work to correct! The tree may well produce fruit from the first year, and after that with an annual prune of new shoots back to 3 or 4 leaves from their base (or completely where it becomes crowded) it should soon be producing 20 lbs or more of succulent fruit. Be sure to select self pollinators or two compatible varieties. My greengage minarette only ever produced the odd fruit despite cajoling and then threats, and finally had to be consigned to green waste. Our most successful trees have been Beurre Hardy and Conference pears, the former having the edge in both flavour and productivity."



Good luck, and be sure to hear Paul Robeson sing "Trees" on YouTube.

Please continue to take care everyone, and keep up the exercise and fresh air by walking our lovely local lanes. The beauty of spring is on its way and we look forward to the day when our meetings can safely resume and outings to wonderful gardens. All members should have received a January newsletter, please send in any bits and pieces for future editions, such as gardening advice or questions, recommended books, news of allotments, garden items wanted or for sale, to [susan.jeffery@virgin.net](mailto:susan.jeffery@virgin.net), thank you.

**Sue Jeffery**  
[binfieldgardenclub.wordpress.com](http://binfieldgardenclub.wordpress.com)



Although we could not hold our usual Remembrance events this year, the Binfield Branch of The Royal British Legion, still did what they were allowed to support The Remembrance Tide.

We managed to do some collecting for the Poppy Appeal in the Memorial Hall car park, on Foxley field and some local businesses had boxes. Unfortunately when the lockdown came in all face to face collections had to stop!

Members of the public attended the war memorial at St Marks Church as individuals for their own personal reflections.

Wreaths were laid at different times, respecting the guidance of no gatherings or ceremonies. Wreaths were laid on behalf of RBL Binfield Branch. Harley Coles for Meadowvale Primary School. Steve Collett for Binfield



Parish Council, and other personal tributes were laid.



Meadowvale School, who are affiliated members also did a wonderful display on their school fence.

We'd like to thank all those who supported the Poppy Appeal. This year Binfield raised £3567.59.

**Karen Hatt**  
Branch Chairperson

**LIVE ON – To the Memory of the Fallen  
and the Future of the Living**



## A happy, if not a potentially different, New Year to all readers.

Firstly, may I introduce myself. I am the new Public Relations Officer for the Bracknell Branch of the Royal Naval Association, having been elected to the position at our recent AGM, on

the retirement of my predecessor S/M Terry Dilliway, who has proudly served the Branch with distinction for a number of years. Terry worked hard journalistically to put the Branch 'out there' in the local community and by doing so helped us and other key members to double Branch numbers over the last five years. Whilst I don't have a background in journalism, I have worked in various businesses for almost 30 years where I have learned the value of marketing, and under the direction of the Committee will be working hard to bring the Association and its attractions to the widest possible audience.

We are closely affiliated to the Binfield Branch of the Royal British Legion; indeed, a number of our members are members of both organisations and enjoy a rich camaraderie, one of the key features of any ex-service association, providing an extended family for the purpose of welfare support, charitable works, and the continuance of a rich heritage and military legacy. However, it is a sad fact that a number of branches of both organisations fold each year due to lack of support and diminishing membership. This is not unnatural given the demographics and the advancing years of its traditional membership. Indeed, the Bracknell RNA came close to folding some 4/5 years ago, but thanks to the efforts of a small cadre of members on a 'recruitment' campaign, we were able to attract new members/associate members and double our original membership, now enjoying fun monthly meetings (currently on zoom, naturally) and until last years lockdown a number of thoroughly enjoyable day trips to military places of interest. There is a thought that potential new members may mistakenly believe that you have to have served in the Navy to be a member and join in our activities. That isn't the case as over 80% of our members are 'Associate' members, who enjoy all of the benefits of branch membership.

The Association recently decided to become a 'donation based' organisation rather than previously having been a 'subscription based' one. Now the only 'fee' for a year's membership is a £6.00p annual levy to the Bracknell Branch. So, if you have any connection to any of the following organisations, perhaps current or former serving members or family members, then please give some consideration to joining us as I can assure you that you will be extended a very warm welcome. The Association envelopes the following for Full membership: current and former Naval Service personnel



Public Relations Officer -  
S/M Marcus Carpenter

including: Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Women's Royal Naval Service, Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marines Reserve, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Royal Navy Auxiliary Service, and also Merchant Navy veterans if holders of the MNA Veterans Badge. Associate membership is for families, friends and anyone who supports our naval service.

If you wish to have more information, then please go online at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/> or contact our Branch Secretary - S/M June Boddrell at [secretary.bracknellrna@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.bracknellrna@gmail.com) or by telephone on 01344 311869.

At our AGM the Branch Chairmanship changed hands.

S/M Mike Daley stood down after five years in post, to add to the five years he completed in the 1980's, and was replaced by S/M Nigel Carpenter, formerly Branch Vice Chairman who looks forward to building on the sterling work done by Mike, and leading the Branch on the next stage of its journey, post Covid! S/M Mike didn't go far though, as he graciously agreed to become the Vice Chairman to ensure continuity in the event that the Chairman is unavailable for some reason. His contribution to the branch is immeasurable and we sincerely thank him for all he does. The remainder of our Committee postholders elected to remain in post for a further year, including our President S/M Shelagh Pile, and the Branch is truly blessed with their unstinting and professional service throughout the year.



Branch Chairman -  
S/M Nigel Carpenter

Thanks to the stewardship of our esteemed Treasurer S/M Martin Powell, Branch funds continue to be in a healthy state, in spite of the Branch being unable to carry out their usual Christmas Charity Collections. The Branch approved donations totalling £450.00p to five chosen naval charities.

Our good relationship with the Maidenhead Sea Cadet Unit continues to strengthen and we are delighted with the news that they have received Planning Permission for their new building and that they were awarded a Burgee (a pennant/flag) plus Captain's Commendation, which indicates the highest proficiency a Unit can receive.

The monthly meeting closed with some enjoyable "Dits" ('stories' to the uninitiated - often tall!) shared by several Shipmates.

I look forward to being the provider of interesting branch updates in future issues of the Beacon, particularly if we are managing to get 'out and about' post lockdown.

S/M Marcus Carpenter

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