

The Binfield Beacon



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

March 2021

The Tablecloth

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 Tablecloth

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service for 2 months later.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and finished the work one day ahead of schedule. The next day however, a terrible tempest -- a driving rainstorm -- hit the area and lasted for two days.

When the rain had finished the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the first service, headed home. On the way, he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in.

One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time, it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked, and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked. "Where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he

had just gotten the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war, she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came in, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful first service they had. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall, because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war. And how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and he saw the greatest reunion he could ever imagine.

As for this couple whose hopes and plans for the future were drastically changed by World War 2, similarly many, or indeed all, of us have had plans changed during the current pandemic. We are all walking a different path to the one that we were expecting for 2020/2021 and are hoping for better things in the near future. The Bible reminds us that God offers hope, it says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11.

- Author Unknown -

Story taken from http://godslittleacre.net/inspirationalstories/the_tablecloth.html

Luke

From the Registers:



Photo by [Lesley Davidson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Funerals

Kay McCourt

CHURCH NEWS

SERVICES

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 the Church is closed and all our congregations' services are suspended until Thursday 1st April.



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/>

Easter Lilies



A time to remember loved ones

Every year at Easter we have a beautiful display of lilies in All Saints' Church, and the names of loved ones no longer with us are displayed on a scroll with the flowers. If we are unable to open for services over Easter, these will be on display in the porch.

If you would like to commemorate someone please contact Jan by 12th March who will arrange this for you.

A donation towards the cost of the lilies would be very much appreciated.

Thank you

Jan Vigar 01344 411267

Easter Service Times

at All Saints' Church

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 1st April, 7.30pm

(Said Communion)

Good Friday

Friday 2nd April, 2pm

An Hour at the Cross

(A quiet reflective service)

Easter Sunday

Sunday 4th April - 10am

(Said Communion)

YOU MUST BOOK A PLACE AT ANY OF THESE SERVICES . PLEASE TEXT OR CALL 07719 545 292 OR EMAIL office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

Booking for Sunday Services

From April 1st we are hoping to re-start our physical services, with our Easter Services, however, all services will be dependent on the Covid restrictions that will be in place.

Unfortunately, due to the limited number of socially distanced seats available we will continue to run a booking system which may mean that you won't get a place every week.

Please: email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk or call or text the **office mobile 07719 545 292** before 12pm Thursday in the week you would like to attend. Confirmation of attendance will be emailed later that day.

You are welcome to arrive and enquire if space is available on the day (however if the service is full, we would sadly have to ask you to remain outside).

YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK FOR ALL EASTER SERVICES



Take part in our Easter display!

We are calling people of all ages to help us make a beautiful Easter display for 2021, where we will be filling a wire cross with real flowers and flowers made by the people of Binfield. We are giving out packs with the materials you will need to make a flower, and of course some Easter chocolate is included as we won't be able to do our Easter Egg Hunt like we have done in previous years.



There will be three options for ability; simple colouring for under 5's, cutting and sticking for primary school aged kids, and slightly more complex cutting and folding for those who are regular crafters and adults.

If you would like to collect your pack and be part of our Easter display, please message us on facebook or email Daisy at daisyridell@gmail.com with the number of packs you will require and we will get them to you!



The Cross will be on display, in the porch, outside All Saints' Church from after the Good Friday Service all over the Easter break. So do please come along to have a look and place a flower real or paper in our display during this period.

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

CONTACT US: 07719 545292 office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

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Revd Luke Taylor
07939 526361
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

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)

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Church Website:

www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk



We are also on Facebook
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>

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!

Jane Aylwin

tel. 481692

Jill Hanson

tel. 452694

Margareta Hawkins

tel. 411681

Sarah Muller

tel. 428782

Jan Vigar

tel. 411267

Gisele Taylor

tel. 07724 889169

Dave Dawson

tel. 360389

*Or contact the church office on 07719 545292
or email 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 /07850 799434



Praying for and with you

We have weekly prayer sheets — please email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk if you would like something to be included.



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 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

www.binfieldarcproject.org.uk

www.facebook.com/binfieldarcproject

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Hi Everyone!

Well 2021 is moving along quickly, I can't believe we're in March already! At least we're heading into spring and hopefully into warmer weather and sunshine. Here's what we've been up to with the young people...

The kids and youth work is still online and virtual, which is definitely not the same but is keeping us busy until we can meet again in person!



At Whizz Kids on Sunday mornings we've been learning about the armour of God, and how we can be ready for whatever comes our way with God's help. So far we've made the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shoes of peace!



At Oasis we've been choosing a theme each week to dress up as to make our meetings more eventful, and we've had some crazy choices so far including celebrities, penguins and goths! I wish I could show you what we all look like, but the girls are reluctant to show themselves in costume, I can't imagine why...



We can't wait until we are able to meet again safely in person, but until then we are making do with the wonderful technology we have available.

Daisy - Children's and Youth Worker (daisyridell@gmail.com)

Mickey needs a home!

Would you like to win him? We are holding a competition for all ages for a chance to win this Mickey Mouse cuddly toy. Here's how to enter...

Create ANYTHING with the theme of 'springtime'.



Whether that's art, poetry, video, photography, wherever your mind leads you! As long as it's something creative.

You can enter as many times as you like and we'll be choosing a winner on 31st March.

Either send an email to Daisy with a picture/video of your entry, or if you'd prefer to physically submit your creation, let us know and we can sort collection of your entry.

Good luck! daisyridell@gmail.com



Dear Binfield Community, We hope you are all surviving the latest lockdown! For those with little ones under the age of 5, we at Binfield Preschool wanted to share some ideas with you on how to keep them entertained at the moment.

The BBC has some really good activities, tips and advice on their website. Take a look at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>.

Give your senses a workout and go on a Scavenger Hunt

Have a look out of the window or go on a walk and see if you can spot any of these birds

5 SENSES SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find something that makes a crunch sound.
- Find something that tastes sour.
- Find something that smells good.
- Find something smooth.
- Find 3 of the same thing.
- Find something that smells bad.
- Find something that tastes sweet.
- Find something loud.
- Find something long.
- Find something soft.
- Find something white.
- Find something quiet.
- Find something rough.



BIRD WATCHING TRAIL



Magpie ☐



Pigeon ☐



Red Kite ☐



Blue Tit ☐



Robin ☐



Sparrow ☐



Blackbird ☐



Thrush ☐

The Binfield Lighthouse Program

Colouring Competition

Print this page, featuring the Lighthouse Program logo, and colour and decorate it to create your own scene



Closing date 28th March 2021

Age groups: Ages 6 and under and Ages 7 - 11. There will be a prize for the winner in each category.

Return a pdf scan of your entry to amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk

or drop your page to the Lighthouse food donation drop off at the Oakmede Place on Mondays and Tuesdays, 11-3pm (inside the KDL Pizza Ltd office reception area by the Co-op).

Please include the artist's name, age and a contact number!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Binfield Lighthouse Programme News

The Binfield Lighthouse continues to support a growing number of people in our local community. We are now delivering foods twice a week to circa 115 people. Our partnership with Newbold Church and St Josephs has proved to be very successful and has become streamlined.

On a Tuesday we send out approx. 500 meals. We have over 40 cooks preparing meals and 20 drivers volunteering their time to personally deliver to our clients. Recent support from the Share Program, FoodBank, the community @ Warfield Park, local primary schools, Morrisons, Waitrose and danetti has been amazing. We are not only sending foods to our base, but shower gel, shampoo, washing powder, cereal, fruit and milk.



Donations of fresh milk and fruit can be made on Monday and Tuesdays @ Oakmede House, Suite 2 (next to the Post Office in the village)

We now have a dedicated phone for our program – 07827 502314 Please call or text if you would like further information.

I'm afraid we are unable to take any clothing at this time as we have no storage facility. We create a "shout out" if any particular items are requested.

*Thanks to everyone for the continued support
Amanda and Team*

For further information please call or text 07827 502314 or email Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF FOSTERING ON THE WHOLE FAMILY

There are lots of myths around fostering and birth children – mainly concerns that fostering will have a negative effect on your own children.

Denise Chappell, a foster carer with Slough Children's Services Trust, says that nothing could be further from the truth. Denise has been fostering for 15 years, while raising three of her own children, and says that being part of a fostering family has made them the amazing little people they are.

"They are kind and patient and don't take things for granted. It's something that's been picked up by the teachers at school. I genuinely believe that being part of a fostering family will help them to be better people as adults too."

Find out more about fostering through Slough Children's Services Trust, the support and allowances you will receive, the support your children will receive, by visiting fosterforslough.com or text FOSTER to 60066.

Karen Williams



Hands up if you want to be a foster carer!

We give children a helping hand
when they need it most. Could you?



To start a conversation about
becoming a foster carer in Slough,
text **FOSTER** to **60066** or visit
www.fosterforslough.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Berkshire Family History Society

Have you been inspired to research your family history during lockdown or are you interested in getting started?

Berkshire Family History Society have a number of online events coming up, including a Beginners' Course, which may be just the thing you need to get going or to further hone your skills. Our events programme uses Zoom video conferencing technology and as a registered charity, number 283010, most events are open to all, whether you're a member of the society or not. Here's a few of the many events coming up:



Sat 6th Mar 2-3.15pm Talk: The Arrival of the Railways in Reading with Richard Marks (tickets £5)

Brunel's Great Western Railway arrived in Reading on the 30th March 1840. In this talk, historian Richard Marks, will look at the impact the railway had on the town when it arrived, and how this compared to other places. We will also look at how the first train service compared to the service Reading enjoys today.

From 16th Mar: Beginners' Family History Course with Chad Hanna and Gillian Stevens (tickets £35) 6 sessions: Mar 16th, 23rd & 30th, Apr 6th, 13th & 20th, 2 - 3.30pm.

This course comprises a series of six workshops for those new to researching family history including where to start, how to progress and good research practice. Learn how to work with core records of civil registration, censuses, parish registers and modern wills. Discover the different genealogy websites, the content they offer and their strengths and limitations.

Sat 17th April 2-4pm Workshop: Getting more out of *Ancestry* and *Findmypast* with Tony Wright (tickets £10)
Are you getting the most out of Ancestry and Findmypast (FMP)? In this workshop, discover the datasets they hold using Ancestry's Card Catalogue and FMP's Record Sets. Learn the benefits of the lesser used records, such as Ancestry's Census Enumerator's Summaries and where to find Census References and why you should use them. Find out how to locate Family History Societies' transcriptions of parish registers. Tony will also share tips and best practices such as saving and renaming images.

For more information about these and all other events, and to book a place, see <https://berksfhs.org>

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



Alternatively visit:

www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk/binfield-beacon/ where a colour version of the Beacon is published online each month.

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The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Binfield

The Binfield Beacon



The deadline for Beacon contributions
for the April 2021 issue

is Mon 15th March 2021

Please email:

Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)



Free gadgets engineered for people in and around Binfield

The pandemic hasn't stopped the volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers from making equipment and gadgets for people with disabilities or special need. Among the projects recently completed locally by the charity Remap have been:

- * Specially-padded bathroom steps to help a six-year-old with the rare RERE Syndrome get in and out of the bath.
- * Long-reach window-opener for a woman who finds it impossible to stretch up.
- * Wooden extensions to the legs of a dining table so a wheelchair user can sit comfortably close.
- * Conversion to the wheels on a walker to allow it to be used on soft ground.

The 25 volunteer 'MakeAbility' engineers at Remap Berkshire enjoy using their skills to create custom-made equipment and gadgets for people in the county who have disabilities or special needs and who cannot find anything suitable to buy.

This 'MakeAbility' service is entirely free.

Panel members have a wide variety of expertise between them, ranging from IT and electronics, to metalwork, carpentry and 3D-printing - the list is endless.

Remap Berkshire engineers often work alongside health professionals like occupational therapists, physiotherapists, doctors or Special Educational Needs staff to make sure that the equipment provided safely meets individual situations.

Remap Berkshire has assisted people in all age groups with a wide variety of issues. Some 'MakeAbility' projects are simple, others extremely challenging - all can make a real difference to the recipient's quality of life.

Each piece of equipment is tailor-made to suit specific needs. Many of the materials used are recycled, but some have to be bought using funds kindly contributed from sources including charitable foundations, Rotary Clubs and community groups. Although no charge is made to users, many are so pleased with the service that they choose to make a donation to facilitate projects for others.

The MakeAbility service has continued throughout the pandemic, with all necessary precautions being taken.

Remap Berkshire is one of 70 county 'MakeAbility' groups spread across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The charity (reg. no. 1137666) was founded in 1965 and assists around 3,000 people every year.

Further information:

Remap Berkshire can be contacted in complete confidence:

07790 127123

berks.caseofficer@remapgroups.org.uk

www.berkshire.remap.org.uk

If you would like a Remap Berkshire speaker to make a Zoom or in-person presentation at your Club, Group or healthcare team, please call 01491 671998 or email berks.publicity@remapgroups.org.uk There is no charge.

To find out more about volunteering with Remap, please visit:

<https://www.remap.org.uk/volunteering/making-equipment-for-people-with-disabilities/>



COMMUNITY NEWS

The Foxes' Den

COFFEE FOOD COMMUNITY



How are you feeling?

We are all trying little things to help ourselves to keep moving forward while in lockdown; whether it's dragging the kids out for some fresh air or sharing a jigsaw or two on social media. Everyone at the Den really wants to be back and to be a part of the Binfield happenings again and thanks to the Government's announcement on 22nd Feb – we can!! It will only be the takeaway window again from 8am 8th March with no outside seating, but do please stop by and say hello!

Meanwhile, we have been working hard inside the Den to do the little jobs that don't seem to get done while we are open – the servery has had a bit of a face lift; our main larder cupboard has been refitted and we are working on making the outside space more useable (and less muddy!)

If you have any suggestions about how we can make things better, do please get in touch – anything from stocking more of your favourite cake to ideas for outside entertainment and activities – I look forward to hearing from you!
claire@foxesden.co.uk

*Thanks for reading! Stay well
 Claire*

foxesden.co.uk fb.com/thefoxesdencafe 07919 448254
 Benetfeld Road, Binfield. RG42 4EW

FOXY LUNCHES



Even though we are closed we are still offering our *free* 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 xx

Do you like a good read?

As part of our sustainability drive and to help locals share their love of reading we have established the Binfield Book Exchange. It is a bookshelf outside the field door of the Den where you can just take a book at any time of day or night or leave ones that you have read and no longer want. It is open to everyone. *We advise that if you do take one that you quarantine it for 72 hours...*



WORDSEARCH ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE



Bear	Fish	Pig
Camel	Fox	Raven
Cockeral	Goat	Sheep
Cow	Leopard	Snake
Dog	Lion	Whale
Donkey	Locust	Wolf
Dove	Maggot	
Eagle	Ox	



f e n q t e r a u j o
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 t s u c o l s s x o f

COMMUNITY NEWS



News from the Parish Office – March 2021 *(correct as of 8 February 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.

March 2021

Tuesday 9 March	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 23 March	Planning & Transportation Committee	8pm

Be more involved in serving your local community. Become a Parish Councillor

You can be part of creating positive news for the Parish such as these examples below - grants to support the community, major projects to improve the quality of parish life, and new amenities such as allotments. Get involved by becoming a Parish Councillor! Talk to us more about what the role entails and apply using the [Application Form](#).

Local Community Groups benefit from grant awards & Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding

Community Grants: The Parish Council are delighted to announce that, in the January 2021 grant awards, 10 organisations received grants ranging from £100 to £1,343 totalling £6,520 (50% of the 2020/21 grant fund of £13,000). The remaining 18% (£2,380) will be used for any emergency community needs in the coming months with any remainder being added to the grant allocation fund for financial year 2021-22.

Grant awards have been made to 1st Binfield Brownies, 1st Binfield Rainbows, 4th Binfield Guides, Assisting Berkshire Children to read, Berkshire Vision, Bracknell & District Parkinson's Branch, Bracknell Shopmobility, Citizens Advice Bracknell & District, Keep Mobile Community Transport CIO, and the South Hill Park Arts Centre.

For more information and to view/download an Application Form for July 2021 with the Grant Policy please go to our [Grants page](#) of our website.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding: Binfield Parish Council receives 25% of CIL raised within the parish which is linked to the development of new homes. CIL funds may be spent on: Infrastructure provision, Infrastructure improvements, Infrastructure operation and maintenance, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

Recent funding awards have been made to: Binfield Football Club – support development of facilities to include a community space with kitchen, Binfield Parish Council - regeneration of York Road (additional car parking and new play area) and the provision of new allotment site at Pocket Copse, Latika Tennis Club – contribution to the resurfacing and floodlights of 5 tennis courts (provisional award agreement) and The Bowmen of Warfield – support development of facilities at the site including wheelchair access, lighting and all weather facilities.

A policy on how CIL will be spent was adopted in November 2019 and can be found, together with an Application Form, on the [Grants page](#) of our website. Please contact the Parish Council if you are a community group/organisation who could benefit from CIL funding.

Major Projects Update: York Road play area and Pocket Copse allotments

The York Road car park works are complete. The work on the York Road entrance to the Red Rose allotments is still ongoing. The new play area installation works will commence shortly with a planned opening at Easter. The Pocket Copse allotment layout is underway and all those on the allotment list will be contacted to check for their continued interest in taking on a plot and to discuss next steps on plot allocation. These project works, and subsequent opening to the public, will be subject to COVID-19 guidance and restrictions at the time. Please check our [Parks & Open Spaces](#) and [Allotments](#) and Facebook page for further updates.

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

www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS



Big Garden Bird Watch

The birds that make their home in Binfield are welcoming the first signs of spring. As I write this: blackbirds, robins, and thrushes are trying out song-posts and establishing their territories; dunnocks (or hedge sparrows) are visible

and audible; and woodpeckers are drumming in our copses.

At the end of January lots of Binfield residents took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch. This required us to take an hour to count the birds that turned up in our garden and then submit this information to the RSPB. Almost half a million people took part in this activity in 2020 and this annual event is providing important information on the population trends amongst our garden visitors.

This year, Binfield participants reported greater spotted woodpeckers (as shown in the picture), sparrowhawks, nuthatches and blackcaps during their hours. The average number of species reported in a Binfield garden is somewhere between 12 and 15. I am not aware that anyone reported a flamingo this year. A few years ago, the data for our postcode included a single record of a flamingo which turned out to be a sighting of a plastic flamingo in a neighbour's garden.

Early results for 2021 suggest that significantly more people than ever have taken part. In fact so many people tried to submit their results on Sunday 31st January that the RSPB systems struggled to cope. Live events ran on social media

showing people how to identify and feed their garden birds. Live feeds from cameras watching bird feeders at RSPB reserves and elsewhere attracted lots of interest. People joined in from all over the world comparing the visitors to bird tables in places from North America to Scandinavia.

The RSPB now has over 40 years of data and this has helped increase their understanding of the challenges faced by wildlife. Big Garden Bird Watch was one of the first surveys to identify the decline of song thrushes in gardens. This species was a firm fixture in the top 10 in 1979. But by 2019, those numbers had declined by 76% – coming in at number 20. House sparrow sightings have dropped by 53% since the first Bird Watch in 1979, but in the past 10 years their numbers have grown by 10%. Citizen science, like Big Garden Bird Watch, is a way of helping spot problems, and is the first step towards putting things right.

I think the Big Garden Bird Watch, and other surveys like it, are great fun too. In our family, three generations take part and there is a degree of healthy competition ahead of, and during, the weekend. We have been doing it for enough years to have seen some of the changes in our own gardens, and are already wondering who will turn up on our feeders over the next year.

Binfield Environment Group can be contacted by email at binfeldeg@gmail.com or on Facebook.

Mike Coker



The Binfield Belles

It's February and raining and warm a change from the freezing cold temps last week. I hope this finds you all well. Binfield WI are still up and running in name only but all our members are keeping in touch with each other till we meet again. We have even managed to recruit some new ones in Lockdown, if you fancy joining our gang give me a call or email below

It is typical of an organization like ours at National Federation level to send out information about zoom meetings, virtual coffee mornings and other online events. Not everybody's cup of tea I am afraid to say.

Like most groups we have a lot of members online and so contactable, but doing a zoom meeting is a totally different thing, bad enough with our committee a few weeks ago. Was lovely to see everybody's faces although whether they had Jim jams on that we won't know! We all want to talk at once and catch up and do committee business at the same time. The only way to hold an AGM is in virtual mode as we have 60 members in a hall normally. That done ...committee are all in for the long haul over the next year whatever it brings.

This time of the year members normally vote on a resolution chosen from a variety of suggestions put forward by our members. Generally, the resolutions are discussed at our annual conference in June and the one voted for is taken up by the WI. It may be to lobby parliament or put in place things

that can be carried out at local WI level. Over the years the WI have fought for equal pay, keep Britain tidy, milk campaign, plastic sea and numerous others put forward have included bone marrow transplant, modern day slavery, organ donation to name a few. Voting will take place as usual and we shall have a cause to fight for again.

In our flower festival in 2018 which we held in the church we illustrated some of these resolutions supported over the years. It was a wonderful weekend with lots of memories and a lot of flower arranging, good to reminisce

at these times.

Meanwhile bush telegraph still alive and members still enjoying chats and occasionally passing in walks in the village. Better days are coming lots of our girls have been vaccinated have to add not partying!

Snowdrops are out, daffodils in bud and spring will come as usual... look after each other until we meet again next month.

Linda Willcocks - 01344 454503/07708731294
binfieldwi@berkshirewi.co.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS



Walk around Billingbear and Hill Farm - 4.7 km

This walk includes two sections which can be muddy after rain. It is not recommended for buggies. Dogs should be kept on leads in the Billingbear section. This is a lovely walk with great views on a clear day. 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.

Take the gravel path from the north-east corner of the car park, passing the information board. This path will take you anti-clockwise round the edge of this attractive park. At the time of writing the park has a trim trail, a zip-wire and a playground for older children.

When you get to the far corner of the park, go through the gate and cross the road to the left to join another path that follows the edge of two fields climbing up to join Carters Hill road.

Turn right and follow the road until you come to a drive on the left. 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 right and follow the road downhill until it meets a larger road. Cross this carefully to take the bridleway on the far side. Follow this tree-lined track, catching occasional glimpses of Allanbay House to the left, and All Saints Church to your right, and climb up to Hill Farm.

Turn right. The path becomes a road that takes you past an archery club (home of the Bowmen of Warfield) and Binfield Football Club (home of The Moles).

Turn right at the T-junction opposite the cemetery gate to reach the main road. Follow this in the same direction, crossing it when a footpath appears on the far side, and then turn left along Forest Road North, but not before looking back at All Saints Church. If you have time, the church and its graveyard are worth exploring. Parts of the church date from the 14th Century.



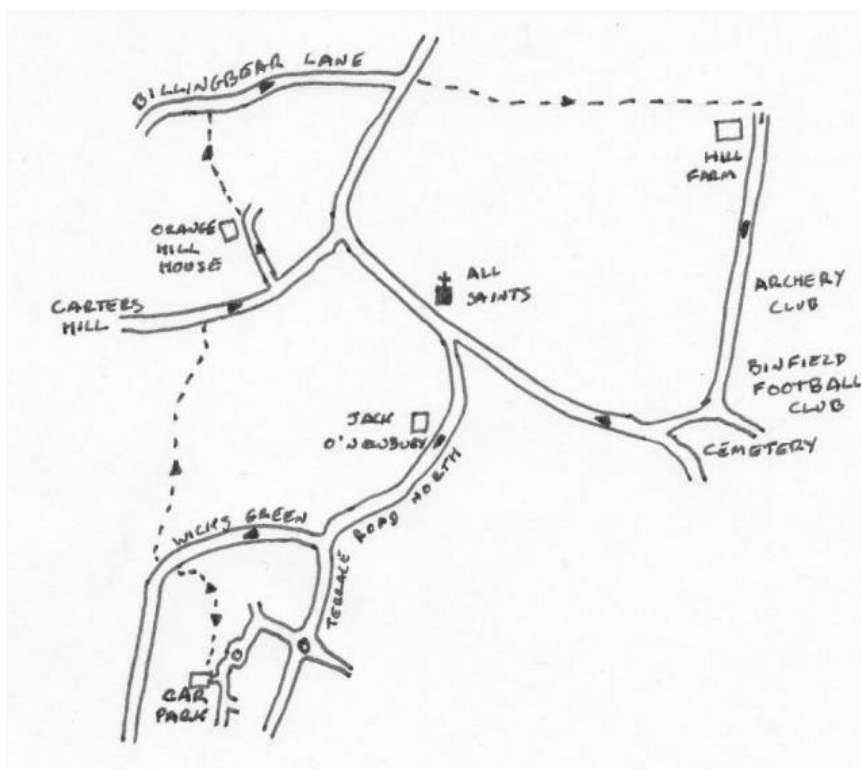
Wicks Green Park



All Saints' Church

Walk down Terrace Road North, passing the Jack O' Newbury, until you come to a road (Wicks Green) on your right. Follow this road, past a set of Almshouses, until you come to the gate back into the park. Follow the gravel path back to the car park.

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



COMMUNITY NEWS



ACTION CALENDAR: MINDFUL MARCH 2021



MONDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture & smell of your food

15 Stop, breathe and just notice. Repeat regularly during the day

22 Walk a different route today and see what you notice

29 Notice what is working today and be thankful that this is so

TUESDAY

2 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world outside

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

23 Tune in to your feelings, without judging or trying to change

30 Mentally scan down your body and notice what it is feeling

WEDNESDAY

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

17 Look around and spot 3 things you find unusual or pleasant

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

31 Notice the joy to be found in the simple things of life

THURSDAY

4 Notice how you speak to yourself. Try to use kind words

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

18 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

FRIDAY

5 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

26 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

SATURDAY

6 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

13 Pause to just watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

20 Celebrate the International Day of Happiness dayofhappiness.net

27 Have a device-free day and enjoy the space it offers

SUNDAY

7 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that need doing

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

28 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

"Mindfulness means that we commit fully in each moment to be present" - Jon Kabat-Zinn



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/mindful-march

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FOBS QUIZ NIGHT



WHERE: Online via
Zoom

WHEN: Friday 12th March
7.30pm for 8pm start

HOW: Order tickets from:
www.pta-events.co.uk/fobs

YOU CAN REGISTER YOUR TEAM NAME AND

PAY FOR ALL OF YOUR TEAM MEMBERS IN ONE GO

OR PAY FOR YOUR OWN TICKET

Tickets: £4 per person

Enter as a single household or form a virtual team with friends!
Max 8 in a team, nominate a Team Captain to submit answers.



COMMUNITY NEWS



What's been happening at Binfield CE Primary School (V.A.)?

Remote Learning at Binfield and great community support!

The New Year has brought a significant challenge for everyone with the invoking of the third national lock-down. Although schools have remained open since last March, they have been repurposed and staff have been working tirelessly to support the children who need to be in school, whilst also supporting those at home. Since January, we have been offering an enhanced remote learning provision, with two live Teams sessions each day, together with recorded teaching and activities. We have also been able to join up the children in school with their friends at home via the Teams calls.

We have also provided a lot of additional support for families by loaning out equipment, printing work, giving additional resources such as paper/pencils etc. and supporting with giving reassurance and advice for parents and pupils as we all have to find ways to cope. Children have also been reading with staff over Teams as well as practising their phonics. Some staff have also visited pupils and their families at home to give additional support (albeit remaining outside and at a 2m distance!).



We have had great support from the local community too and recently we had some devices donated by Delta who are a telecommunications company in Ascot as well as private donations from people in the village. We have also been supported by 'We Repair Tech' in Binfield who have continuously helped us throughout the pandemic and have donated refurbished devices for us to loan out to children, as well as made speedy repairs when devices have failed.



Many, many thanks for all the support, which has been invaluable in supporting the children in Binfield during this challenging time!

This week we received another donation from one of our pupils' grandparents, Mrs Penny Bennett. She has been busy at her sewing machine making these beautiful masks for our staff. Thank you once again for helping to keep Binfield stay safe!



The pandemic won't stop us keeping fit and competing in sport!



Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to keep active and find ways to compete in sports. We love sport at Binfield and we would usually compete in inter-school competitions across a wide range of sports and events. Although we have not been able to do this in person, we have been participating in the Virtual Berkshire school games, both at Bracknell Forest level and county level too!

Both children currently in school and those remoting in from home have been able to take part in a wide range of events. The children have collected their scores and the school has submitted them. Most recently, we have secured a 1st place finish for Year 1, and a second place for Years 2 and Y6.

The Year 1 score was sufficient to take 2nd place in the whole of Berkshire too!



BRACKNELL FOREST FITNESS FRENZY			
Well done to all the Bracknell schools and individuals who took part in the first event of the Spring Series of Virtual competitions.			
Year 1	Binfield Year 1	Whitegrove Year 1	Holly Spring Pool 2
Year 2	St Joseph's Year 2	Binfield Year 2	St Margaret Clitherow Year 2
Year 3	The Pines Year 3	Whitegrove Year 3	St Margaret Clitherow Year 3
Year 4	Whitegrove Year 4	St Joseph's Year 4	The Pines Year 4
Year 5	Whitegrove Year 5	Holly Spring Year 5	St Margaret Clitherow Year 5
Year 6	Whitegrove Year 6	Binfield Year 6	Holly Spring Year 6



COMMUNITY NEWS



BRACKNELL FOREST LIBRARIES READ TALK SHARE, BEFRIENDING PROGRAMME

We are working with the Reading Agency to use the proven power of reading to tackle loneliness and support mental health, as part of the country's COVID-19 recovery.

The 'Read, Talk, Share' campaign provides the opportunity to offer Reading Friends, a reading befriending programme which starts conversations and connects people who are lonely and isolated.

Bracknell Forest Libraries will be joining in the scheme with events and activities. We have a very busy schedule of virtual events planned for March, plus we are adding new weekly "Get Fit with Sarah" sessions, whom many of you will know from Binfield Library, with seated exercise for people who prefer this gentler form of movement, and children's exercise sessions as well (the first starting on Wednesday 24 March at 2pm, the second on Monday 15 March at 9.30am), a knit and natter virtual group and a chat on food and cooking. Just check our website for more information and future events:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/libraries/library-events/virtual-library-events>

For children the programme currently includes:

- weekly songs and stories for children under 5s, during our Wednesday virtual bounce and rhymes, every Wednesday at 11am
- a special storytime appointment with 'The Gruffalo' on Saturday 6 March at 10.30am and one with the classic 'Guess How Much I Love You' on Saturday 27 March at 10.30am
- we are starting our first Chatterbox reading club for children aged 7-11. Children have the opportunity to talk about the books they have been reading, get new reading ideas and take part in fun activities inspired by the books, including crafts, quizzes and games. The sessions are:
Thursday 4 March, 4pm - Pirates and perils of the deep
Thursday 11 March, 4pm - Time travel
Thursday 18 March, 4pm - Shakespeare
Thursday 25 March, 4pm - Thrills, adventure and spies
Thursday 1 April, 4pm - Chocolates, sweets and other treats

For grown-ups, we have planned 2 different book groups (and you are welcome to join both), one for fiction fans and one for thrill-seekers. All the books discussed are available on BorrowBox on an unlimited basis, so no need to wait or queue.

The Thrills Fans book group is meeting on Thursday 4 March, 7-8pm, and we are reading 'The Unexpected Return of Josephine Fox' by Claire Gradidge.

The Fiction Fans group will meet in April, date to be confirmed.

Also, many authors will be with us virtually in March and April to talk about their books, read extracts from their works and share their own writing and publication experience. Authors include:

- Anthony J Quinn, critically acclaimed writer of 9 crime novels, the latest is "Turncoat". He is going to be with us on Tuesday 23 March, at 3pm
- Peter Lovesey, internationally renowned author of over 30 mysteries, including the series featuring Chief Superintendent Peter Diamond, a golden age-style detective. The online event is on Thursday 25 March, at 3.30pm
- Julie Corbin, psychological thrillers author, with 7 novels published and one coming in Autumn, on Thursday, 18 March, at 7pm.
- Annie Murray, born in Berkshire and popular author of family sagas, with over 27 books out and one coming this April, on Friday 23 April, at 2pm

We also have a quiz coming up, to test your knowledge of all things spring on Wednesday 31 March at 2pm, and 4 appointments to discover:

- our online reading app, Borrowbox - Friday 5 March, 11.30am
- how to get started on Ancestry and find information about your family history - Friday 12 March, 2pm
- local history resources (including pictures, maps and newspapers) to learn about our town and local area past - Monday 15 March, 11.30am
- caring for your own collection, a talk with the Berkshire Record Office – Tuesday 16 March, 2pm

The best part? It's all free!

Just register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/libraries-bracknell-forest-council-26376617855>

Or call Bracknell Library at 01344 423149.

Befriending phone service

Our friendly staff are available over the phone Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, for a chat about books or any enquiries.

We are happy to help with a variety of enquiries, including:

- library book renewals
- digital access
- lockdown delivery service
- membership
- reading suggestions
- or if you just need a chat - we are always here for you

You can call Binfield Library at 01344 306663 on Thursday, Friday afternoon (2.30-4pm) and Saturday only. Alternatively, there is staff available at:

- Bracknell Library - 01344 423149 (Monday to Saturday, except Wednesday)
- Crowthorne Library - 01344 776431 (Monday, Wednesday and Saturday only)
- Sandhurst Library - 01252 870161 (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only)
- Whitegrove Library - 01344 424211 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)

Giulia Gagliardi



Binfield Garden Club

Here we are in March 2021 and, looking back a year, our club meeting in March 2020 was the last one we were to have for a very long time. We had so enjoyed a wonderful evening with Troy Scott Smith, head gardener at Iford Manor Gardens plus our usual excellent raffle, sales tables and super refreshments. Our competition that night had been for a pot of flowering bulbs and it was won by Trudy Inge. Unbeknownst to us at the time, a week or so later we would be put into Lockdown No 1 and are still unable to physically meet. We will be holding our 2021 AGM on Zoom on 4th March. Paid up members will be sent the link and we hope as many of you as possible will join us.

On 1st April at 7.00pm will be a talk titled Beyond the Garden Gate by Angel and Graham O'Connell. Again this will be on Zoom and the link will be sent out. The list of future speakers for the rest of the year is on our website binfieldgardenclub.wordpress.com. Whether they will be meetings or virtual meetings cannot be announced with certainty at this moment, we are in the hands of the virus and the powers that be! Thankfully we have the spring season on its way, and an abundance of daffodils to raise our spirits.



In lieu of a meeting report, our chairman Ralph has written us a very interesting article on figs and he is hoping to have some rooted cuttings available later.

Question: Why should a vegetarian eat a brown turkey?

Answer: because it's a delicious variety of fig.

You might think that the fig is a borderline exotic fruit, certainly Mediterranean and non-British. In fact it must be amongst the easiest and most rewarding fruit to grow, and if you select the right variety it is perfectly at home through our hard winters and variable summers. The Brown Turkey is just such a variety, and will produce a succession of delicious figs from August to October.

I planted my cutting without successfully confining the root space. Consequently in ten years it has become a big tree – mitigated by training it along a wall. If that doesn't suit then I recommend growing it in a large pot; it will still produce plenty of figs and will be an attractive feature for most of the year, with its large olive green leaves. Fig trees need some sunshine, but not rich soil or cossetting. Mine has withstood recent droughts though I wouldn't let a pot-grown tree dry out.

The fig has no blossom (the 'flower' is inside the fruit) so is effectively self-pollinating. It does not attract pests, though I leave one or two over-ripe fruit to the wasps in return for their destruction of greenfly earlier in the year!



Tiny figs appear as early as January and these will be this year's crop. In our climate any new figlets developing in a second flush from around April are best removed because they weaken the earlier ones. Trees are very easy to prune and shape, but the sap can cause skin irritation.

Brown Turkeys ripen sequentially which is very handy, but even so a good year can leave one 'figged out' (as a neighbour remarked). Do not pick them until the fruit is brown, hanging down and soft to the touch; they will not ripen further once picked, nor do they keep beyond two or three days.

Take care, keep gardening and remember - *To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow (Audrey Hepburn) and Tomorrow will be a good day. (Captain Tom)*

Sue Jeffery

binfieldgardenclub.wordpress.com and Facebook



COMMUNITY NEWS



Bracknell Branch Update

The first meeting after our AGM in January 2021 was opened/hosted by the newly elected Chairman S/M Nigel Carpenter, as 22 members and 2 guests of the Bracknell Branch of the RNA settled down to the all too familiar Zoom meeting for another month. Thankfully, no shouting, arguments or accusations of piracy disrupted our zoom meeting that recently we have seen could quite easily become an internet sensation overnight! We all long for the day when we can meet again in person.

Highlights of the meeting

Standard Bearer S/M Anthony Boddrell stated the Branch Standard had not been paraded at any formal occasions since the last meeting. However, the Standard could still be paraded at events and shipmates' funerals upon family request, as long as Social Distancing, Face Coverings and Hand Washing/Sanitizing protocols were observed.

Secretary S/M June Boddrell summarized many of the benefits of being part of the RNA family with updates on publications of the Semaphore newsletter for February being available. Some key changes of the watch at the Central Office with two new additions this month. Sadly, the National Conference has been postponed from being held in June until later in the year but the ongoing virtual "Fireside chats", which all can join, still continue with up and coming features including a Virtual tour of the Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) Dartmouth and many others.

S/M June also presented an update from our affiliated Sea Cadet Unit, the Maidenhead Sea Cadets. Commanding Officer S/M Chris is currently undertaking a training course in Meteorology to become a basic trainer in the subject and enhance the skills of the cadets. Sadly, the Unit is also running virtually but with good attendance. The Instructors however are having to keep regular visits to the Station a priority as the river Thames is high and there is a risk of flooding and damage to the boating pontoons.

Branch Treasurer S/M Martin Powell gave the financial statement of the Branch and was optimistic that some of our annual fundraising events would take place in 2021 to boost the coffers.

The Branch is still planning some of the fabulous socials, and other events that happen including some virtual presentations from guest speakers whilst on Zoom. Always captivating and varied, the Branch welcomes all guest speakers and presentations often with a varied military or historical link but, not just a naval theme. Come and see for yourself. Thank you, S/M Lynne Daley, for all your planning to keep things varied and upbeat.

Our Chairman S/M Nigel Carpenter concluded his first meeting in office and clearly stated that he hoped the Branch would go from strength to strength. This could only be done with the current members' support, new members joining and by the dedication of the committee and their hard work in supporting the Branch.

This month's formal meeting was rounded off with the traditional sharing of Dits (humorous yarns, jokes and anecdotes). This was followed by an excellent talk by Paul Godfrey on his Naval career. Paul has prepared a book recording his Life in the RN to pass to his family and we were grateful he could share extracts with some of his RNA family.

As the newest recruit to this band of merry men and women in the Bracknell Royal Navy Association, I could have been forgiven for thinking the Association is for serving or ex-serving Naval personnel. As an associate member I have never served, but with family members, parents and grandparents who have served and fought as part of our armed forces, both Navy and Royal Marines, my passion to seek out similar people with common interests drew me to the RNA Bracknell. As the Branch Public Relations Officer, I invite anyone who has any links to the Navy, Royal Marines or any of our armed forces who wants to meet and simply chat and swap stories with like-minded folks, to reach out and join us. Even if you haven't served you will be made most welcome as an associate member. For further information, please contact our Branch Secretary, S/M June Boddrell at secretary.bracknellrna@gmail.com or by telephone on 01344 311869.

*Yours aye,
S/M Marcus*

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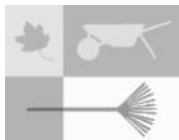
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